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# Claudian

Claudius  
Claudianus,  
Maurice Platnauer

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## CLAUDIAN

### I



# CLAUDIAN

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY  
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IN TWO VOLUMES

I



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## INTRODUCTION

CLAUDIUS CLAUDIANUS may be called the last poet of classical Rome. He was born about the year 370 A.D. and died within a decade of the sack of the city by Alaric in 410. The thirty to forty odd years which comprised his life were some of the most momentous in the history of Rome. Valentinian and Valens were emperors respectively of the West and the East when he was born, and while the former was engaged in constant warfare with the northern tribes of Alamanni, Quadi and Sarmatians, whose advances the skill of his general, Theodosius, had managed to check, the latter was being reserved for unsuccessful battle with an enemy still more deadly.

It is about the year 370 that we begin to hear of the Huns. The first people to fall a victim to their eastward aggression were the Alans, next came the Ostrogoths, whose king, Hermanric, was driven to suicide; and by 375 the Visigoths were threatened with a similar fate. Hemmed in by the advancing flood of Huns and the stationary power of Rome this people, after a vain attempt to ally itself with the latter, was forced into arms against her. An indecisive battle with the generals of Valens (377) was followed by a crushing Roman defeat in the succeeding year (August 9, 378) at Adrianople, where

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Valens himself, but recently returned from his Persian war, lost his life.

Gratian and his half-brother, Valentinian II., who had become Augusti upon the death of their father, Valentinian I., in 375, would have had little power of themselves to withstand the victorious Goths and Rome might well have fallen thirty years before she did, had it not been for the force of character and the military skill of that same Theodosius whose successes against the Alamanni have already been mentioned. Theodosius was summoned from his retirement in Spain and made Augustus (January 19, 379). During the next three years he succeeded, with the help of the Frankish generals, Bauto and Arbogast, in gradually driving the Goths northward, and so relieved the barbarian pressure on the Eastern Empire and its capital. In 381 Athanaric, the Gothic king, sued in person for peace at Constantinople and there did homage to the emperor. In the following year the Visigoths became allies of Rome and, for a time at least, the danger was averted.

Meanwhile the West was faring not much better. Gratian, after an uneasy reign, was murdered in 383 by the British pretender, Magnus Maximus. From 383 to 387 Maximus was joint ruler of the West with Valentinian II., whom he had left in command of Italy rather from motives of policy than of clemency ; but in the latter year he threw off the mask and, crossing the Alps, descended upon his colleague whose court was at Milan. Valentinian fled to Thessalonica and there threw himself on the mercy of Theodosius. Once more that general was to save the situation.

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Maximus was defeated by him at Aquileia and put to death, while Arbogast recovered Gaul by means of an almost bloodless campaign (388).

The next scene in the drama is the murder at Vienne on May 15, 392, of the feeble Valentinian at the instigation of Arbogast. Arbogast's triumph was, however, short-lived. Not daring himself, a Frank, to assume the purple he invested therewith his secretary, the Roman Eugenius, intending to govern the West with Eugenius as a mere figure-head. Once more, and now for the last time, Theodosius saved the cause of legitimacy by defeating Eugenius at the battle of the Frigidus<sup>1</sup> in September 394. Eugenius was executed but Arbogast made good his escape, only to fall a few weeks later by his own hand.

Theodosius himself died on January 17, 395, leaving his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, emperors of the East and West respectively. Arcadius was but a tool in the hands of his praetorian prefect, Rufinus, whose character is drawn with such venomous ferocity in Claudian's two poems. Almost equally powerful and scarcely less corrupt seems to have been that other victim of Claudian's splenetic verses, the eunuch chamberlain Eutropius, who became consul in the year 399. Both these men suffered a violent end: Eutropius, in spite of the pleadings of S. John Chrysostom, was put to death by Gainas, the commander of the Gothic troops in the East; Rufinus was torn to pieces in the presence of Arcadius himself by his Eastern troops.<sup>2</sup> The instigator of

<sup>1</sup> Cf. vii. 99 *et sqq.*

<sup>2</sup> vv. 348 *et sqq.* S. Jerome (*Ep.* lx.) refers to his death and tells how his head was carried on a pike to Constantinople.

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this just murder was Claudian's hero, Stilicho the Vandal.

Stilicho, who had been one of Theodosius' generals, had been put in command of the troops sent to oppose Alaric, the Visigoth, when the latter had broken away from his allegiance to Rome and was spreading devastation throughout Thrace, Macedonia and Thessaly. He was successful in his campaign, but, upon his marching south into Greece, in order to rid that country also of its Gothic invaders, he was forbidden by Rufinus to advance any farther. There can be little doubt that the murder of Rufinus was Stilicho's answer.

In spite of a subsequent victory over Alaric near Elis in the year 397, Stilicho's success can have been but a partial one, for we find the Visigoth general occupying the post of Master of the Soldiery in Illyricum, the withholding of which office had been the main cause of his defection. Possibly, too, the revolt of Gildo in Africa had something to do with the unsatisfactory termination of the Visigothic war. It is interesting to observe the dependence of Italy on African corn, a dependence of which in the first century of the Christian era Vespasian, and right at the end of the second the pretender Pescennius Niger, threatened to make use. If we can credit the details of Claudian's poem on the war (No. xv.), Rome was very shortly reduced to a state of semi-starvation by Gildo's holding up of the corn fleet, and, but for Stilicho's prompt action in sending Gildo's own brother, Mascezel, to put down the rebellion, the situation might have become even more critical. The poet, it may be remarked, was in an awkward position with regard to the war for,

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though the real credit of victory was clearly due to Mascezel (*cf.* xv. 380 *et sqq.*), he nevertheless wished to attribute it to his hero Stilicho, and, as Stilicho had Mascezel executed<sup>1</sup> later in that same year (Gildo had been defeated at Tabraca July 31, 398), he prudently did not write, or perhaps suppressed, Book II.

Stilicho, who had married Serena, niece and adoptive daughter of Theodosius, still further secured his position by giving his daughter, Maria, in marriage to the young Emperor Honorius in the year 398. This "father-in-law and son-in-law of an emperor," as Claudian is never wearied of calling him, did the country of his adoption a signal service by the defeat at Pollentia on Easter Day (April 6), 402, of Alaric, who, for reasons of which we really know nothing, had again proved unfaithful to Rome and had invaded and laid waste Italy in the winter of 401-402.

The battle of Pollentia was the last important event in Claudian's lifetime. He seems to have died in 404, four years before the murder of Stilicho by the jealous Honorius and six before the sack of Rome by Alaric—a disaster which Stilicho<sup>2</sup> alone, perhaps, might have averted.

So much for the historical background of the life of the poet. Of the details of his career we are not well informed. Something, indeed, we can gather from the pages of the poet himself, though it is not much, but besides this we have to guide us only Hesychius of Miletus' short

<sup>1</sup> Or at least connived at his death; see Zosimus v. 11. 5.

<sup>2</sup> For an adverse (and probably unfair) view of Stilicho see Jerome, *Ep.* cxxiii. § 17.

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article in Suidas' lexicon, a brief mention in the Chronicle of 395, and (a curious survival) the inscription<sup>1</sup> under the statue which, as he himself tells us,<sup>2</sup> emperor and senate had made in his honour and set up in the Forum of Trajan. We are ignorant even of the date of his birth and can only conjecture that it was about the year 370. Of the place of his birth we are equally uninformed by contemporary and credible testimony, but there can be little doubt that he came from Egypt,<sup>3</sup> probably from Alexandria itself. We have, for what it is worth, the word of

<sup>1</sup> *C.I.L.* vi. 1710 (=Dessau 2949). Now in the Naples Museum.

[Cl.] Claudiani v.c. | [Cla]udio Claudiano v.c., tri | [bu]no et notario, inter ceteras | [de]centes artes prae[g]loriosissimo | [po]etarum, licet ad memoriam sempiternam carmina ab eodem | scripta sufficient, adtamen | testimonii gratia ob iudicii sui | [f]idem, dd. nn. Arcadius et Honorius | [fe-]licissimi et doctissimi | imperatores senatu petente | statuam in foro divi Traiani | erigi collocarique iusserunt.

Εἰν ἐνὶ Βιργιλίῳ νόον | καὶ Μοῦσαν Ὀμήρου |  
Κλαυδιανὸν Ῥώμῃ καὶ | βασιλῆς ἔθεσαν.

v.c. = vir clarissimus, *i.e.* (roughly) The Rt. Hon. dd. nn. = domini nostri. The inscription may be translated:—To Claudius Claudianus v.c., son of Claudius Claudianus v.c., tribune and notary (*i.e.* Permanent Secretary), master of the ennobling arts but above all a poet and most famous of poets, though his own poems are enough to ensure his immortality, yet, in thankful memory of his discretion and loyalty, their serene and learned majesties, the Emperors Arcadius and Honorius have, at the instance of the senate, bidden this statue to be raised and set up in the Forum of the Emperor Trajan of blessed memory.

Rome and her kings—to one who has combined  
A Homer's music with a Vergil's mind.

<sup>2</sup> xxv. 7.

<sup>3</sup> John Lydus (*De magistr.* i. 47) writes οὗτος ὁ Παφλαγών, but this, as Birt has shown, is merely an abusive appellation.

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Suidas and the lines of Sidonius Apollinaris,<sup>1</sup> which clearly refer to Claudian and which give Canopus as the place of his birth. (Canopus is almost certainly to be taken as synonymous with Egypt.) But besides these two statements we have only to look at his interest in things Egyptian, *e.g.* his poems on the Nile, the Phoenix, etc., at such passages as his account of the rites at Memphis,<sup>2</sup> at such phrases as "nostro cognite Nilo,"<sup>3</sup> to see that the poet is an Egyptian himself. It is probable that, whether or not he spent all his early life in Egypt, Claudian did not visit Rome until 394. We know from his own statement<sup>4</sup> that his first essays in literature were all of them written in Greek and that it was not until the year 395 that he started to write Latin. It is not unlikely, therefore, that his change of country and of literary language were more or less contemporaneous, and it is highly probable that he was in Rome before January 3, 395, on which day his friends the Anicii (Probinus and Olybrius) entered upon their consulship. Speaking, moreover, of Stilicho's consulship in 400 Claudian mentions a five years' *absence*.<sup>5</sup> Not long after January 3, 395, Claudian seems to have betaken himself to the court at Milan, and it is from there that he sends letters to Probinus and Olybrius.<sup>6</sup> Here the poet seems to have stayed for five years, and here he seems to

<sup>1</sup> Sid. Ap. *Carm.* ix. 274.

<sup>2</sup> viii. 570 *et sqq.*

<sup>3</sup> *Carm. min. corp.* xix. 3: *cf.* also *Carm. min. corp.* xxii. 20.

<sup>4</sup> *Carm. min. corp.* xli. 13.

<sup>5</sup> xxiii. 23.

<sup>6</sup> *Carm. min. corp.* xl. and xli.; see ref. to Via Flaminia in xl. 8.



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have won for himself a position of some importance. As we see from the inscription quoted above, he became *vir clarissimus, tribunus et notarius*, and, as he does not continue further along the road of honours (does not, for instance, become a *vir spectabilis*) we must suppose that he served in some capacity on Stilicho's private staff. No doubt he became a sort of poet laureate.

It is probable that the "De raptu" was written during the first two years of his sojourn at the court of Milan. The poem is dedicated, or addressed, to Florentinus,<sup>1</sup> who was *praefectus urbi* from August 395 to the end of 397 when he fell into disgrace with Stilicho. It is to this circumstance that we are to attribute the unfinished state of Claudian's poem.

The Emperor Honorius became consul for the third time on January 3, 396, and on this occasion Claudian read his Panegyric in the emperor's presence.<sup>2</sup>

Some five weeks before this event another of greater importance had occurred in the East. This was the murder of Rufinus, the praetorian prefect, amid the circumstances that have been related above. The date of the composition of Claudian's two poems "In Rufinum" is certainly to be placed within the years 395-397, and the mention of a "tenuem moram"<sup>3</sup> makes it probable that Book II. was written considerably later than Book I.; the references, moreover, in the Preface to Book II. to a victory of Stilicho clearly point to that general's defeat of the Goths near Elis in 397.

To the year 398 belong the Panegyric on the

<sup>1</sup> Praef. ii. 50.

<sup>2</sup> vi. 17.

<sup>3</sup> iv. 15.

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fourth consulship of Honorius and the poems celebrating the marriage of the emperor to Stilicho's daughter, Maria. We have already seen that the Gildo episode and Claudian's poem on that subject are to be attributed to this same year.

The consuls for the year 399 were both, in different ways, considered worthy of the poet's pen. Perhaps the most savage of all his poems was directed against Eutropius, the eunuch chamberlain, whose claim to the consulship the West never recognized,<sup>1</sup> while a Panegyric on Flavius Manlius Theodorus made amends for an abusive epigram which the usually more politic Claudian had previously levelled at him.<sup>2</sup>

At the end of 399, or possibly at the beginning of 400, Claudian returned to Rome<sup>3</sup> where, probably in February,<sup>4</sup> he recited his poem on the consulship of Stilicho; and we have no reason for supposing that the poet left the capital from this time on until his departure for his ill-starred journey four years later. In the year 402,<sup>5</sup> as has already been mentioned, Stilicho defeated Alaric at Pollentia, and Claudian recited his poem on the Gothic war sometime during the summer of the same year. The scene of the recitation seems to have been the *Bibliotheca Templi Apollinis*.<sup>6</sup> It was in this year, too, that the poet reached the summit of his great-

<sup>1</sup> Cf. xxii. 291 *et sqq.*

<sup>2</sup> Carm. min. xxi.

<sup>3</sup> xxiii. 23.

<sup>4</sup> So Birt, *Praef.* p. xlii. note 1.

<sup>5</sup> It should perhaps be mentioned that this date is disputed: see Crees, *Claudian as an Historical Authority*, pp. 175 *et sqq.*

<sup>6</sup> xxv. 4 "Pythia . . . domus."

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ness in the dedication of the statue which, as we have seen, was accorded to him by the wishes of the emperor and at the demand of the senate.

The last of Claudian's datable public poems is that on the sixth consulship of Honorius. It was composed probably towards the end of 403 and recited in Rome on (or after) the occasion of the emperor's triumphant entry into the city. The emperor had just returned after inflicting a defeat on the Goths at Verona in the summer of 403. It is reasonable to suppose that this triumphant entry (to which the poem refers in some detail, ll. 331-639) took place on the day on which the emperor assumed the consular office, viz. January 3, 404.

In the year 404 Claudian seems to have married some protégée of Serena's. Of the two poems addressed to her the "*Laus Serenae*" is clearly the earlier, and we may take the other, the "*Epistola ad Serenam*," to be the last poem Claudian ever wrote. It is a poem which seems to have been written on his honeymoon, during the course of which he died.<sup>1</sup>

It is not easy to arrive at any just estimate of Claudian as a writer, partly because of an inevitable tendency to confuse relative with absolute standards, and partly (and it is saying much the same thing in other words) because it is so hard to separate Claudian the poet from Claudian the manipulator of the Latin language. If we compare his latinity with that of his contemporaries (with the possible exception of Rutilius) or with that of such a poet as Sidonius Apollinaris, who came not much more

<sup>1</sup> This suggestion is Vollmer's: see his article on Claudian in Pauly-Wissowa, III. ii. p. 2655.

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than half a century after him, it is hard to withhold our admiration from a writer who could, at least as far as his language is concerned, challenge comparison with poets such as Valerius Flaccus, Silius Italicus, and Statius—poets who flourished about three centuries before him.<sup>1</sup> I doubt whether, subject matter set aside, Claudian might not deceive the very elect into thinking him a contemporary of Statius, with whose *Silvae* his own shorter poems have much in common.

Even as a poet Claudian is not always despicable, His descriptions are often clever, *e.g.* the Aponus, and many passages in the "De raptu."<sup>2</sup> His treatment of somewhat commonplace and often threadbare themes is not seldom successful—for example, the poem on the Phoenix and a four-line description of the horses of the dawn in the Panegyric on Honorius' fourth consulship<sup>3</sup>—and he has a happy knack of phrase-making which often relieves a tedious page :

ille vel aerata Danaën in turre latentem  
eliceret <sup>4</sup>

he says of the pander Eutropius.

But perhaps Claudian's forte is invective. The panegyrics (with the doubtful exception of that on

<sup>1</sup> Still more striking is the comparison of Claudian's latinity with that of his contemporary, the authoress of the frankly colloquial *Peregrinatio ad loca sancta* (see Grandgent, *Vulgar Latin*, p. 5 : Wölflin, "Über die Latinität der P. ad l. sancta," in *Archiv für lat. Lexikographie*, iv. 259).

<sup>2</sup> It is not impossible that this poem is a translation or at least an adaptation of a Greek (Alexandrine) original. So Förster, *Der Raub und die Rückkehr der Persephone*, Stuttgart, 1874.

<sup>3</sup> viii. 561-4 (dawns seem to suit him : *cf.* i. 1-6).

<sup>4</sup> xviii. 82, 83.

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Manlius, which is certainly brighter than the others) are uniformly dull, but the poems on Rufinus and Eutropius are, though doubtless in the worst of taste, at least in parts amusing.

Claudian's faults are easy to find. He mistook memory for inspiration and so is often wordy and tedious, as for instance in his three poems on Stilicho's consulship.<sup>1</sup> Worse than this he is frequently obscure and involved—witness his seven poems on the drop of water contained within the rock crystal.<sup>2</sup> The besetting sin, too, of almost all post-Virgilian Roman poets, I mean a "conceited" frigidity, is one into which he is particularly liable to fall. Examples are almost too numerous to cite but the following are typical: "nusquam totiensque sepultus"<sup>3</sup> of the body of Rufinus, torn limb from limb by the infuriated soldiery; "caudamque in puppe retorquens Ad proram iacet usque leo"<sup>4</sup> of one of the animals brought from Africa for the games at Stilicho's triumph; "saevusque Damastor, Ad depellendos iaculum cum quaereret hostes, Germani rigidum misit pro rupe cadaver"<sup>5</sup> of the giant Pallas turned to stone by the Gorgon's head on Minerva's shield. Consider, too, the remarkable

<sup>1</sup> Honourable exception should be made of xxi. 291 *et seqq.*—one of the best and most sincere things Claudian ever wrote.

<sup>2</sup> It is worth observing that not infrequently Claudian is making "tentamina," or writing alternative lines: *e.g.* Carm. min. corp. vii. 1 and 2, and almost certainly the four lines of id. vi. v. is quite likely "a trial" for some such passage as xv. 523.

<sup>3</sup> v. 453.

<sup>4</sup> xxiv. 357-8.

<sup>5</sup> Carm. min. corp. liii. 101-3.

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statement that Stilicho, in swimming the Addua, showed greater bravery than Horatius Cocles because, while the latter swam away from Lars Porsenna, the former "dabat . . . Geticis pectora bellis."<sup>1</sup>

Two of the poems are interesting as touching upon Christianity (Carm. min. corp. xxxii. "De salvatore," and l. "In Iacobum"). The second of these two poems can scarcely be held to be serious, and although the first is unobjectionable it cannot be said to stamp its author as a sincere Christian. Orosius<sup>2</sup> and S. Augustine<sup>3</sup> both declare him to have been a heathen, but it is probable that, like his master Stilicho, Claudian rendered the new and orthodox religion at least lip-service.

It seems likely that after the death of Claudian (404) and that of his hero, Stilicho, the political poems (with the exception of the Panegyric on Probinus and Olybrius,<sup>4</sup> which did not concern Stilicho) were collected and published separately. The "Carmina minora" may have been published about the same time. The subsequent conflation of these two portions came to be known as "Claudianus maior," the "De raptu" being "Claudianus minor."

The mss. of Claudian's poems fall into two main classes :

(1) Those which Birt refers to as the *Codices*

<sup>1</sup> xxviii. 490.

<sup>2</sup> vii. 35 "Paganus pervicacissimus."

<sup>3</sup> *Civ. dei*, v. 26 "a Christi numine alienus."

<sup>4</sup> This poem does not seem to have been associated with the others till the 12th century.

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*maiores* and which contain the bulk of the poems but seldom the "De raptu."

(2) Those which Birt calls the *Codices minores* and which contain (generally exclusively) the "De raptu."

Class (1) may be again divided into (a) mss. proper; (b) excerpts. I give Birt's abbreviations.

(a) The most important are :

R = Cod. Veronensis 163. 9th century.

Contains only the "Carmina minora."

G = Cod. Sangallensis S n. 429. 9th century.

Contains only the (Latin) "Gigantomachia."

G (*sic*) = Cod. Reginensis 123. 11th century.

Contains only "De Nilo."

V = Cod. Vaticanus 2809. 12th century.

P = Cod. Parisinus lat. 18,552. 12th or 13th century.

Contains all the "Carmina maiora" except (as usual) the "De raptu" and "Pan. Prob. et Olyb." No "minora."

C = Cod. Bruxellensis 5380-4. (?) 12th-13th century.

Π = Cod. Parisinus lat. 8082. 13th century.

This is Heinsius' "Regius." The ms. once belonged to Petrarch and still bears his name.

B = Cod. Neapolitanus Borbonicus 1111 E 47. 13th century.

A = Cod. Ambrosianus S 66. 15th century.

Contains all the "maiora" except the "De raptu" and "Pan. Prob. et Olyb."

J = Cod. Cantabrigiensis coll. Trinitatis 0.3.22. 13th century.

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Besides these are many inferior mss. referred to collectively by Birt as  $\zeta$ .

(b) Consists of :

E = Excerpta Florentina. 15th century.

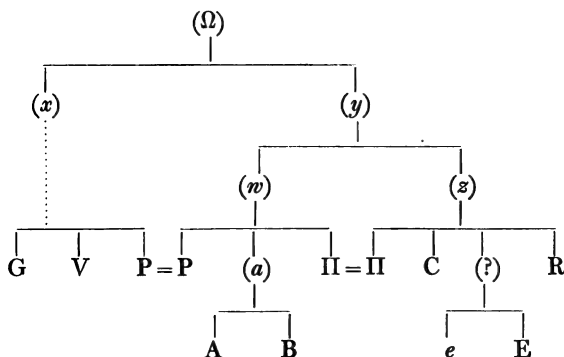
e = Excerpta Gyraldina. 16th century.

Each of them resembles the other closely and both come from a common parent.

Under (b) may further be mentioned the Basel edition of Isengrin (1534), which preserves an independent tradition.

Birt postulates an archetype ( $\Omega$ ), dating between 6th and 9th centuries, and two main "streams,"  $x$  and  $y$ ;  $y$  being again subdivided into  $w$  and  $z$ .

The following is the family "tree." Letters enclosed in brackets refer to non-existent mss.



Of class (2) may be mentioned :

S = Cod. Parisinus lat. 15,005. 13th or 14th century.



## INTRODUCTION

C = Cod. Cantabrigiensis coll. corp. Christi  
228. 13th century.

D = Cod. Musei Britannici 6042. 13th  
century.

W = Cod. Antverpiensis iii. 59. 12th or 13th  
century.

F = Cod. Florentinus bibl. St. Crucis. 12th  
century.

A } = Codd. Oxonienses Bodleiani. (?) 13th  
B } = century.

V = Cod. Antverpiensis N. 71. 14th century.

It is to be observed that in Birt's edition, and in any other that accepts his "sigla," A B C and V stand for different mss. according to whether they refer, or do not refer, to the "De raptu."

Some mss. contain scholia but none of these go back before the 12th or even the 13th century.

The chief editions of Claudian are as follows :

Ed. princeps :

Celsanus, Vicenza, 1482.

Ugolentus, Parma, 1500.

Parrhasius, Milan, 1500.

Camers, Vienna, 1510.

Aldine ed. (Asulanus), 1523.

Isengrin ed. (Michael Bentinus), Basel, 1534.<sup>1</sup>

Claverius, Paris, 1602.

Like Bentinus, Claverius used certain mss. (in his case those of the library of Cuiacius) unknown to us.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See section on mss.

<sup>2</sup> Koch, *De codicibus Cuiacianis quibus in edendo Claudiano Claverius usus est*, Marburg, 1889.

## INTRODUCTION

Plantin ed. (Scaliger), 1603.

Elzevir ed. (Heinsius), Leyden, 1650.

Amsterdam, 1665.

Barth, Hanau, 1612.

Frankfort, 1650.

Delphin ed. (Pyrrho), Paris, 1677.

Burmam, Amsterdam, 1760.

König, Göttingen, 1808.

These last three have good explanatory notes.

The first critical edition is that of L. Jeep (Leipzig, 1876-79).

In 1892 Birt published what must be considered as the standard edition of Claudian—vol. x. in the *Monumenta Germaniae historica* series. Birt was the first to put the text of Claudian on a firm footing, and it is his edition that I have followed, appending critical notes only where I differ from him.<sup>1</sup>

The latest edition of Claudian is that of Koch (Teubner, Leipzig, 1893). Koch was long associated with Birt in his researches into textual questions connected with Claudian, and his text is substantially the same as that of Birt.

<sup>1</sup> I should like if possible to anticipate criticism by frankly stating that the text of this edition makes no claims to being based on scientific principles. I have followed Birt not because I think him invariably right but because his is at present the standard text. Where I differ from him (and this is but in a few places) I do so not because I prefer the authority of another ms. or because I am convinced of the rightness of a conjecture, but because Birt's conservatism commits him (in my opinion) to untranslatable readings, in which cases my choice of a variant is arbitrary. Of the principle of *difficilior lectio* I pragmatically take no account.

## INTRODUCTION

So far as I know, there is no English prose translation of Claudian already in the field, though various of his poems, notably the "De raptu," have found many verse translators, and in 1817 his complete works were put into English verse by A. Hawkins. An Italian version was published by Domenico Grillo in Venice in 1716, a German one by Wedekind in Darmstadt in 1868, and there exist two French prose translations, one by MM. Delatour and Geruzez (éd. Nisard, Paris, 1850) and one by M. Héguin de Guerle (Garnier frères, Collection Panckoucke, Paris, 1865).

Of Claudiana may be mentioned Vogt, *De Claudiani carminum quae Stilichonem praedicant fide historica* (1863); Ney, *Vindictae Claudianae* (1865); T. Hodgkin's *Claudian, the last of the Roman Poets* (1875); E. Arens' *Quaestiones Claudianae* (1894); two studies by A. Parravicini, (1) *Studio di retorica sulle opere di Claudio Claudiano* (1905), and (2) *I Panegirici di Claudiano* (1909); J. H. E. Crees' *Claudian as an Historical Authority* (Cambridge Historical Essays, No. 17, 1908); Professor Postgate's article on the editions of Birt and Koch in the *Class. Rev.* (vol. ix. pp. 162 *et sqq.*), and the same scholar's Emendations in the *Class. Quarterly* of 1910 (pp. 257 *et sqq.*). Reference may also be made to Professor Bury's appendix to vol. iii. of his edition of Gibbon (1897, under "Claudian") and to Harvard Studies in Classical Philology, vol. xxx. *The Encomiums of Claudius Claudianus*. Vollmer's article in Pauly-Wissowa's Lexicon is a mine of information, but for completeness Birt's introduction (over 200 pp. long) stands alone.

The curious may find an interesting light thrown  
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## INTRODUCTION

on Claudian and his circle by Sudermann's play, *Die Lobgesänge des Claudian* (Berlin, 1914).

All Claudian's genuine works are translated in the present volumes with the exception of the two-line fragment "De Lanario" (Birt, c.m.c. lii [lxxxviii.]). The appendix "vel spuria vel suspecta continens" has been rejected both by Birt and Koch, and I have in this followed their example. The eight Greek poems attributed to Claudian are at least of doubtful authenticity, though Birt certainly makes out a good case for the "Gigantomachia" (a fragment of 77 lines). The remainder consists of short epigrams, two on the well-worn theme of the water enclosed in the crystal and two Christian ones. These last are almost certainly not the work of Claudius Claudianus but of Claudianus Mamertus, presbyter of Vienne *circ.* 474 A.D. We know from Sidonius (*Ep.* iv. 3. 8) that this Claudian was a writer of sacred poetry both in Greek and Latin—indeed the famous "Pange lingua" is attributed to him.

A word should perhaps be said as to the numbering of the poems.

It is much to be regretted that Birt did not cut adrift from Gesner's system, or at least that he only did so in the "Carmina minora." The resultant discrepancy in his (and Koch's) edition between the order of the poems and their numbering is undoubtedly a nuisance, but I have not felt justified, in so slight a work as the present one, in departing from the now traditional arrangement.

## INTRODUCTION

I wish, in conclusion, to express my thanks to my colleagues, Mr. R. L. A. Du Pontet and Mr. E. H. Blakeney : to the first for valuable suggestions on several obscure points, and to the second for help in reading the proofs.

MAURICE PLATNAUER.

WINCHESTER, *September* 1921.

# CLAUDIAN

**VOL. I**

**B**

# CLAUDII CLAUDIANI CARMINA

## PANEGYRICUS DICTUS PROBINO ET OLYBRIO CONSULIBUS

### I

SOL, qui flammigeris mundum complexus habenis  
volvis inexhausto redeuntia saecula motu,  
sparge diem meliore coma crinemque repexi  
blandius elato surgant temone iugales  
efflantes roseum frenis spumantibus ignem. 5  
iam nova germanis vestigia torqueat annus  
consulibus, laetique petant exordia menses.

Scis genus Auchenium, nec te latuere potentes  
Anniadae; nam saepe soles ductoribus illis  
instaurare vias et cursibus addere nomen. 10  
his neque per dubium pendet Fortuna favorem  
nec novit mutare vices, sed fixus in omnes  
cognatos procedit honos. quemcumque require  
hac de stirpe virum: certum est de consule nasci.

---

<sup>1</sup> Probinus and Olybrius, the consuls for 395 (they were brothers), both belonged to the Anician gens, of which Auchenius became an alternative gentile name, Anicius becoming, in these cases, the *praenomen*. Many members of this family had been, and were to be, consuls: *e.g.* Anicius Auchenius Bassus in A.D. 408. The Annian gens was

# THE POEMS OF CLAUDIAN

## PANEGYRIC ON THE CONSULS PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

### I

SUN, that encirclest the world with reins of flame  
and rollest in ceaseless motion the revolving centuries,  
scatter thy light with kindlier beams and let thy  
coursers, their manes combed and they breathing  
forth a rosy flame from their foaming bits, climb  
the heavens more jocund in their loftier drawn  
chariot. Now let the year bend its new steps for  
the consul brothers and the glad months take their  
beginning.

Thou wottest of the Auchenian<sup>1</sup> race nor are the  
powerful Anniadae unknown to thee, for thou oft  
hast started thy yearly journey with them as consuls  
and hast given their name to thy revolution. For  
them Fortune neither hangs on uncertain favour nor  
changes, but honours, firmly fixed, pass to all their  
kin. Select what man thou wilt from their family,  
'tis certain he is a consul's son. Their ancestors are

related by intermarriage to the Anician : *e.g.* Annius Bassus  
(cos. 331) who married the daughter of Annius Anicius  
Iulianus (cos. 322).



# CLAUDIAN

per fasces numerantur avi semperque renata 15  
nobilitate virent, et prolem fata sequuntur  
continuum simili servantia lege tenorem.

nec quisquam procerum temptat, licet aere vetusto  
floreat et claro cingatur Roma senatu,  
se iactare partem; sed, prima sede relictâ 20  
Auchenii, de iure licet certare secundo :

haud secus ac tacitam Luna regnante per Arcion  
siderae cedunt acies, cum fratre retuso  
aemulis adversis flagrauerit ignibus orbis ;  
tunc iubar Arcturi languet, tunc fulva Leonis 25  
ira perit, Plaustro iam rara intermicat Arctos  
indignata tegi, iam caligantibus armis  
debilis Orion dextram miratur inertem.

Quem prius adgrediar ? veteris quis facta Probini  
nesciat aut nimias laudes ignoret Olybri ? 30

Vivit adhuc completque vagis sermonibus aures  
gloria fusa Probi, quam non ventura silebunt  
lustra nec ignota rapiet sub nube vetustas.  
illum fama vehit trans aequora transque remotas  
Tethyos ambages Atlanteosque recessus. 35  
audii et gelido si quem Maeotia pascit  
sub Iove vel calido si quis coniunctus in axe  
nascentem te, Nile, bibit. virtutibus ille  
Fortunam domuit numquamque levantibus alte  
intumuit rebus ; sed mens circumflua luxu 40  
noverat intactum vitio servare rigorem.  
hic non divitias nigrantibus abdidit antris  
nec tenebris damnavit opes ; sed largior imbre  
sueverat innumeras hominum ditare catervas.

---

<sup>1</sup> Probus was born about 332 and died about 390. He was (among many other things) proconsul of Africa and praefectus of Illyricum.

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

counted by the fasces (for each has held them), the same recurring honours crown them, and a like destiny awaits their children in unbroken succession. No noble, though he boast of the brazen statues of his ancestors, though Rome be thronged with senators, no noble, I say, dare boast himself their equal. Give the first place to the Auchenii and let who will contest the second. It is as when the moon queens it in the calm northern sky and her orb gleams with brightness equal to that of her brother whose light she reflects; for then the starry hosts give place, Arcturus' beam grows dim and tawny Leo loses his angry glint, far-spaced shine the Bear's stars in the Wain, wroth at their eclipse, Orion's shafts grow dark as he looks in feeble amaze at his strengthless arm.

Which shall I speak of first? Who has not heard of the deeds of Probinus of ancient lineage, who knows not the endless praise of Olybrius?

The far-flung fame of Probus<sup>1</sup> and his sire lives yet and fills all ears with widespread discourse: the years to come shall not silence it nor time o'ercloud or put an end to it. His great name carries him beyond the seas, beyond Ocean's distant windings and Atlas' mountain caverns. If any live beneath the frozen sky by Maeotis' banks, or any, near neighbours of the torrid zone, drink Nile's stripling stream, they, too, have heard. Fortune yielded to his virtues, but never was he puffed up with success that engenders pride. Though his life was surrounded with luxury he knew how to preserve his uprightness uncorrupted. He did not hide his wealth in dark cellars nor condemn his riches to the nether gloom, but in showers more abundant than rain would ever enrich countless numbers of

## CLAUDIAN

quippe velut denso currentia munera nimbo 45  
 cernere semper erat, populis undare penates,  
 adsiduos intrare inopes, remeare beatos.  
 praeceps illa manus fluvios superabat Hiberos  
 aurea dona vomens (sic vix <sup>1</sup> tellure revulsa  
 sollicitis fodiens miratur collibus aurum), 50  
 quantum stagna Tagi rudibus stillantia venis  
 effluxere decus, quanto pretiosa metalli  
 Hermi ripa micat, quantas per Lydia culta  
 despumat rutilas dives Pactolus harenas.  
 Non, mihi centenis pateant si vocibus ora 55  
 multifidusque ruat centum per pectora Phoebus,  
 acta Probi narrare queam, quot in ordine gentes  
 rexerit, ad summi quotiens fastigia iuris  
 venerit, Italiae late cum frena teneret  
 Illyricosque sinus et quos arat Africa campos. 60  
 sed nati vicere patrem solique merentur  
 victores audire Probi. non contigit illi  
 talis honor, prima cum parte viresceret aevi,  
 nec consul cum fratre fuit. vos nulla fatigat  
 cura diu maiora petens, non anxia mentem 65  
 spes agit et longo tendit praecordia voto :  
 coepistis quo finis erat. primordia vestra  
 vix pauci meruere senes, metasque tenetis  
 ante genas dulces quam flos iuvenilis inumbret  
 oraue ridenti lanugine vestiat aetas. 70  
 tu, precor, ignarum doceas, Parnasia, vatem,  
 quis deus ambobus tanti sit muneris auctor.

Postquam fulmineis impellens viribus hostem  
 belliger Augustus trepidas laxaverat Alpes,

<sup>1</sup> *mss.* si quis; *Birt* suggests sic vix; possibly *ecquis*  
*should be read.* *Postgate* (*C. Q. iv. p. 258*) quae vix . . .  
 miretur . . . Astur

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

men. The thick cloud of his generosity was ever big with gifts, full and overflowing with clients was his mansion, and thereinto there poured a stream of paupers to issue forth again rich men. His prodigal hand outdid Spain's rivers in scattering gifts of gold (scarce so much precious metal dazzles the gaze of the miner delving in the vexed bowels of the earth), exceeding all the gold dust carried down by Tagus' water trickling from unsmelted lodes, the glittering ore that enriches Hermus' banks, the golden sand that rich Pactolus in flood deposits over the plains of Lydia.

Could my words issue from a hundred mouths, could Phoebus' manifold inspiration breathe through a hundred breasts, even so I could not tell of Probus' deeds, of all the people his ordered governance ruled, of the many times he rose to the highest honours, when he held the reins of broad-acred Italy, the Illyrian coast, and Africa's lands. But his sons o'ershadowed their sire and they alone deserve to be called Probus' vanquishers. No such honour befell Probus in his youth: he was never consul with his brother. You ambition, ever o'ervaulting itself, pricks not; no anxious hopes afflict your minds or keep your hearts in long suspense. You have begun where most end: but few seniors have attained to your earliest office. You have finished your race e'er the full flower of youth has crowned your gentle cheeks or adolescence clothed your faces with its pleasant down. Do thou, my Muse, tell their ignorant poet what god it was granted such a boon to the twain.

When the warlike emperor had with the thunder-bolt of his might put his enemy to flight and freed

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Roma Probo cupiens dignas persolvere grates 75  
 sedula pro natis dominum flexura rogando  
 ire parat. famuli currum iunxere volantem  
 Impetus horribilisque Metus, qui semper agentes  
 proelia cum fremitu Romam comitantur anhelō,  
 sive petat Parthos seu cuspide turbet Hydaspen. 80  
 hic ligat axe rotas ; hic sub iuga ferrea nectit  
 cornipedes rigidisque docet servire lupatis.  
 ipsa, triumphatis qua possidet aethera regnis,  
 adsilit innuptae ritus imitata Minervae.  
 nam neque caesariem crinali stringere cultu 85  
 colla nec ornatu patitur mollire retorto ;  
 dextrum nuda latus, niveos exerta lacertos,  
 audacem retegīt mammam, laxumque coercens  
 mordet gemma sinum ; nodus, qui sublevat ensem,  
 album puniceo pectus discriminat ostro. 90  
 miscetur decori virtus pulcherque severo  
 armatur terrore pudor, galeaeque minaci  
 flava cruentarum praetenditur umbra iubarum,  
 et formidato clipeus Titana lacessit  
 lumine, quem tota variarat Mulciber arte. 95  
 hic patrius Mavortis amor fetusque notantur  
 Romulei ; pius amnis inest et belua nutrix ;  
 electro Tiberis, pueri formantur in auro ;  
 fingunt aera lupam ; Mavors adamante coruscat.  
 Iam simul emissis rapido velocior Euro 100  
 fertur equis ; strident Zephyri cursuque rotarum  
 saucia dividuis clarescunt nubila sulcis.  
 nec traxere moras, sed lapsu protinus uno,

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

the Alps from fear, Rome, anxious worthily to thank her Probus, hastened to beg the Emperor's favour for that hero's sons. Her slaves, Shock and horrid Fear, yoked her winged chariot ; 'tis they who ever attend Rome with loud-voiced roar, setting wars afoot, whether she battle against the Parthians or vex Hydaspes' stream with her spear. The one fastens the wheels to the hubs, the other drives the horses beneath the iron yoke and makes them obey the stubborn bit. Rome herself in the guise of the virgin goddess Minerva soars aloft on the road by which she takes possession of the sky after triumphing over the realms of earth. She will not have her hair bound with a comb nor her neck made effeminate with a twisted necklace. Her right side is bare ; her snowy shoulder exposed ; her brooch fastens her flowing garments but loosely and boldly shows her breast : the belt that supports her sword throws a strip of scarlet across her fair skin. She looks as good as she is fair, chaste beauty armed with awe ; her threatening helm of blood-red plumes casts a dark shadow and her shield challenges the sun in its fearful brilliance, that shield which Vulcan forged with all the subtlety of his skill. In it are depicted the children Romulus and Remus, and their loving father Mars, Tiber's reverent stream, and the wolf that was their nurse ; Tiber is embossed in electrum, the children in pure gold, brazen is the wolf, and Mars fashioned of flashing steel.

And now Rome, loosing both her steeds together, flies swifter than the fleet east wind ; the Zephyrs shrill and the clouds, cleft with the track of the wheels, glow in separate furrows. What matchless speed ! One pinion's stroke and they reach their

## CLAUDIAN .

quem poscunt, tetigere locum : qua fine sub imo  
angustant aditum curvis anfractibus Alpes 105  
claustraque congestis scopulis durissima tendunt,  
non alia reseranda manu, sed pervia tantum  
Augusto geminisque fidem mentita tyrannis.  
semirutae turres avulsaque moenia fumant ;  
crescunt in cumulum strages vallemque profundam  
aequavere iugis ; stagnant immersa cruore 111  
corpora ; turbantur permixto funere manes.

Haud procul exhausto laetus certamine victor  
caespite gramineo consederat arbore fultus  
adclines umeros ; dominum gavis coronat 115  
terra suum, surguntque toris maioribus herbae.  
sudor adhuc per membra calet creberque recurrit  
halitus et placidi radiant in casside vultus :  
qualis letifera populatus caede Gelonos  
procubat horrendus Getico Gradivus in arvo ; 120  
exuvias Bellona levat, Bellona tepentes  
pulvere solvit equos, immensaque cornus in hastam  
porrigitur tremulisque ferit splendoribus Hebrum.

Ut stetit ante ducem discussas Roma per auras,  
conscia ter sonuit rupes et inhorruit atrum 125  
maiestate nemus. prior hic : “ o numen amicum ”  
dux ait “ et legum genetrix longeque regendo  
circumfusa polo consors ac dicta Tonantis,  
dic agedum, quae causa viae ? cur deseris arces  
Ausonias caelumque tuum ? dic, maxima rerum ! 130

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<sup>1</sup> Maximus and Eugenius. See Introduction, p. ix.

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

goal : it is there where in their furthestmost parts the Alps narrow their approaches into tortuous valleys and extend their adamantine bars of piled-up rocks. No other hand could unlock that gate, as, to their cost, those two tyrants<sup>1</sup> found ; to the Emperor only they offer a way. The smoke of towers o'er-thrown and of ruined fortresses ascends to heaven. Slaughtered men are piled up on a heap and bring the lowest valley equal with the hills ; corpses welter in their blood ; the very shades are confounded with the inrush of the slain.

Close at hand the victor, Theodosius, happy that his warfare is accomplished, sits upon the green sward, his shoulders leaning against a tree. Triumphant earth crowned her lord and flowers sprang up from prouder banks. The sweat is still warm upon his body, his breath comes panting, but calm shines his countenance beneath his helmet. Such is Mars, when with deadly slaughter he has devastated the Geloni and thereafter rests, a dread figure, in the Getic plain, while Bellona, goddess of war, lightens him of his armour and unyokes his dust-stained coursers ; an outstretched spear, a huge cornel trunk, arms his hand and flashes its tremulous splendour over Hebrus' stream.

When Rome had ended her airy journey and now stood before her lord, thrice thundered the conscious rocks and the black wood shuddered in awe. First to speak was the hero : " Goddess and friend, mother of laws, thou whose empire is conterminous with heaven, thou that art called the consort of the Thunderer, say what hath caused thy coming : why leavest thou the towns of Italy and thy native clime ? Say, queen of the world. Were it thy



## CLAUDIAN

non ego vel Libycos cessem tolerare labores  
Sarmaticosve pati medio sub frigore Cauros,  
si tu, Roma, velis ; pro te quascumque per oras  
ibimus et nulla sub tempestate timentes  
solstitio Meroën, bruma temptabimus Histrum." 135

Tum regina refert : " non me latet, inclite rector,  
quod tua pro Latio victricia castra laborant  
nec quod servitium rursus Furiaeque rebelles  
edomitae paribus sub te cecidere triumphis.  
sed precor hoc donum cum libertate recenti 140  
adicias, si vera manet reverentia nostri.  
sunt mihi pubentes alto de semine fratres,  
pignora cara Probi, festa quos luce creatos  
ipsa meo fovi gremio. cunabula parvis  
ipsa dedi, cum matris onus Lucina beatum 145  
solveret et magnos proferrent sidera partus.  
his ego nec Decios pulchros fortesve Metellos  
praetulerim, non, qui Poenum domuere ferocem,  
Scipiadas Gallisque genus fatale Camillos.  
Pieriis pollent studiis multoque redundant 150  
eloquio ; nec desidiis dapibusve paratis  
indulgere iuvat nec tanta licentia vitae  
adripit aut mores aetas lasciva relaxat :  
sed gravibus curis animum sortita senilem  
igneae longaevo frenatur corde iuventus. 155  
illis, quam propriam ducunt ab origine, sortem  
oramus praebere velis annique futurum  
devoveas venientis iter. non improba posco,  
non insueta dabis : domus haec de more requirit.  
adnuë : sic nobis Scythicus famuletur Araxes, 160  
12

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

wish I would not shrink from toiling neath a Libyan sun nor from the cold winds of a Russian midwinter. At thy behest I will traverse all lands and fearing no season of the year will hazard Meroë in summer and the Danube in winter."

Then the Queen answered : " Full well know I, far-famed ruler, that thy victorious armies toil for Italy, and that once again servitude and furious rebels have given way before thee, overthrown in one and the same battle. Yet I pray thee add to our late won liberty this further boon, if in very truth thou still reverest me. There are among my citizens two young brothers of noble lineage, the dearly loved sons of Probus, born on a festal day and reared in my own bosom. 'Twas I gave the little ones their cradles when the goddess of childbirth freed their mother's womb from its blessed burden and heaven brought to light her glorious offspring. To these I would not prefer the noble Decii nor the brave Metelli, no, nor the Scipios who overcame the warlike Carthaginians nor the Camilli, that family fraught with ruin for the Gauls. The Muses have endowed them with full measure of their skill ; their eloquence knows no bounds. Theirs not to wanton in sloth and banquets spread ; unbridled pleasure tempts them not, nor can the lure of youth undermine their characters. Gaining from weighty cares an old man's mind, their fiery youth is bridled by a greybeard's wisdom. That fortune to which their birth entitles them I beg thee assure them and appoint for them the path of the coming year. 'Tis no unreasonable request and will be no unheard-of boon. Their birth demands it should be so. Grant it ; so may Scythian Araxes be our vassal

## CLAUDIAN

sic Rhēnus per utrumque latus, Medisque subactis  
nostra Semiramiae timeant insignia tures ;  
sic fluat attonitus Romana per oppida Ganges."

Ductor ad haec : " optata iubēs ultroque volentem,  
diva, rogas ; non haec precibus temptanda fuissent.  
usque adeone meam condunt obliuia mentem,      166  
ut pigeat meminisse Probi, quo vindice totam  
vidimus Hesperiam fessasque resurgere gentes ?  
ante dabunt hiemes Nilum, per flumina dammae  
errabunt glacieque niger damnabitur Indus,      170  
ante Thyesteis iterum conterrita mensis  
intercisa dies refugos vertetur in ortus,  
quam Probus a nostro possit discedere sensu."

Dixerat et velox iam nuntius advolat urbem.  
extemplo strepuere chori collesque canoris      175  
plausibus impulsī septena voce resultant.  
laetatur veneranda parens et pollice docto  
iam parat auratas trabeas cinctusque micantes  
stamine, quod molli tondent de stipite Seres  
frondea lanigerae carpentes vellera silvae,      180  
et longum tennes tractus producit in aurum  
filaeque concreto cogit squalere metallo :  
qualis purpureas praebebat candida vestes  
numinibus Latona suis, cum sacra redirent  
ad loca nutricis iam non errantia Deli,      185  
illa feros saltus et desolata relinquens  
Maenala lassato certis venatibus arcu,  
Phoebus adhuc nigris rorantia tela venenis  
extincto Pythone gerens ; tunc insula notos

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

and Rhine's either bank ; so may the Mede be o'erthrown and the towers that Semiramis built yield to our standards, while amazed Ganges flows between Roman cities."

To this the king : " Goddess, thou biddest me do what I would fain do and askest a boon that I wish to grant : thy entreaties were not needed for this. Does forgetfulness so wholly cloud my mind that I will not remember Probus, beneath whose leadership I have seen all Italy and her war-weary peoples come again to prosperity ? Winter shall cause Nile's rising, hinds shall make rivers their element, dark-flowing Indus shall be ice-bound, terror-stricken once again by the banquet of Thyestes the sun shall stay his course and fly for refuge back into the east, all this ere Probus can fade from my memory."

He spake, and now the speedy messenger hies him to Rome. Straightway the choirs chant and the seven hills re-echo their tuneful applause. Joy is in the heart of that aged mother whose skilled fingers now make ready gold-embroidered vestment and garments agleam with the thread which the Seres comb out from their delicate plants, gathering the leafy fleece of the wool-bearing trees. These long threads she draws out to an equal length with the threads of gold and by intertwining them makes one golden cord ; as fair Latona gave scarlet garments to her divine offspring when they returned to the now firm-fixèd shrine of Delos their foster-island, Diana leaving the forest glades and bleak Maenalus, her unerring bow wearied with much hunting, and Phoebus bearing the sword still dripping with black venom from the slaughtered Python. Then their dear island lavèd the feet of its acknow-

## CLAUDIAN

lambit amica pedes ridetque Aegaeus alumnis      190  
lenior et blando testatur gaudia fluctu.

Sic Proba praecipuo natos exornat amictu :  
quae decorat mundum, cuius Romana potestas  
fetibus augetur. credas ex aethere lapsam  
stare Pudicitiam vel sacro ture vocatam      195  
Iunonem Inachiis oculos advertere templis.  
talem nulla refert antiquis pagina libris  
nec Latiae cecinere tubae nec Graeca vetustas.  
coniuge digna Probo ; nam tantum coetibus extat  
femineis, quantum supereminet ille maritos.      200  
ceu sibi certantes, sexus quid possit uterque,  
hunc legere torum. taceat Nereida nuptam  
Pelion. o duplici fecundam consule matrem  
felicemque uterum, qui nomina parturit annis !

Ut sceptrum gessere manu membrisque rigentes  
aptavere togas, signum dat summus hiulca      206  
nube Pater gratamque facem per inane rotantes  
prospera vibrati tonuerunt omina nimbi.  
accepit sonitus curvis Tiberinus in antris  
ima valle sedens. adrectis auribus haesit,      210  
unde repentinus populi fragor. ilicet herbis  
pallentes thalamos et structa cubilia musco  
deserit ac Nymphis urnam commendat erilem.  
illi glauca nitent hirsuto lumina vultu  
caeruleis infecta notis, reddentia patrem      215  
Oceanum ; crispo densantur gramine colla ;  
vertice luxuriat toto crinalis harundo,

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<sup>1</sup> Anicia Faltonia Proba. She was still alive in 410 and according to Procopius (*Bell. Vand.* i. 2) opened the gates of Rome to Alaric.

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

ledged deities, the Aegean smiled more gently on its nurslings, the Aegean, whose soft ripples bore witness to its joy.

So Proba<sup>1</sup> adorns her children with vestment rare, Proba, the world's glory, by whose increase the power of Rome, too, is increased. You would have thought her Modesty's self fallen from heaven or Juno, summoned by sacred incense, turning her eyes on the shrines of Hellas. No page in ancient story tells of such a mother, no Latin Muse nor old Grecian tale. Worthy is she of Probus for a husband, for he surpassed all husbands as she all wives. 'Twas as though in rivalry either sex had done its uttermost and so brought about this marriage. Let Pelion vaunt no more that Nereid bride.<sup>2</sup> Happy thou that art the mother of consuls twain, blessed thy womb whose offspring have given the year their name for its own.

So soon as their hands held the sceptres and the jewel-studded togas had enfolded their limbs the almighty Sire vouchsafes a sign with riven cloud and the shaken heavens, projecting a welcoming flash through the void, thundered with prosperous omen. Father Tiber, seated in that low valley, heard the sound in his labyrinthine cave. He stays with ears pricked up wondering whence this sudden popular clamour comes. Straightway he leaves his couch of green leaves, his mossy bed, and entrusts his urn to his attendant nymphs. Grey eyes flecked with blue shine out from his shaggy countenance, recalling his father Oceanus; thick curlèd grasses cover his neck and lush sedge crowns his head.

<sup>1</sup> Thetis, daughter of Nereus, was married to Achilles on Mount Pelion in Thessaly.

## CLAUDIAN

quam neque fas Zephyris frangi nec sole perustam  
 aestivo candore mori ; sed vivida frondet  
 aequaevum complexa caput. taurina levantur 220  
 cornua temporibus raucos sudantia rivos ;  
 distillant per pectus aquae ; frons hispida manat  
 imbribus ; in liquidos fontes se barba repectit.  
 palla graves umeros velat, quam neverat uxor  
 Ilia percurrrens vitreas sub gurgite telas. 225

Est in Romuleo procumbens insula Thybri  
 qua medius geminas interfluit alveus urbes  
 discretas subeunte freto, pariterque minantes  
 ardua turrigeræ surgunt in culmina ripae.  
 hic stetit et subitum prospexit ab aggere votum: 230  
 unanimos<sup>1</sup> fratres iuncto stipante senatu  
 ire forum strictasque procul radiare secures  
 atque uno biiuges tolli de limine fasces.

obstupuit visu suspensaque gaudia vocem  
 oppressam tenuere diu ; mox incohat ore : 235

“ Respice, si tales iactas aluisse fluentis,  
 Eurota Spartane, tuis. quid protulit aequum  
 falsus olor, valido quamvis decernere caestu  
 noverit et ratibus saevas arcere procellas ?  
 en nova Ledaëis suboles fulgentior astris, 240  
 ecce mei cives, quorum iam Signifer optat  
 adventum stellisque parat convexa futuris.  
 iam per noctivagos dominetur Olybrius axes  
 pro Polluce rubens, pro Castore flamma Probini.

<sup>1</sup> *Birt, following mss., unanimes ; Koch unanimos*

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<sup>1</sup> Jupiter, who courted Leda in the form of a swan, becoming by her the father of Helen, Clytemnestra, Castor and Pollux. These latter two were the patrons of the ring—hence “decernere caestu” (l. 238); and of sailors—hence “arcere procellas” (l. 239).

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

This the Zephyrs may not break nor the summer sun scorch to withering ; it lives and burgeons around those brows immortal as itself. From his temples sprout horns like those of a bull ; from these pour babbling streamlets ; water drips upon his breast, showers pour down his hair-crowned forehead, flowing rivers from his parted beard. There clothes his massy shoulders a cloak woven by his wife Ilia, who threaded the crystalline loom beneath the flood.

There lies in Roman Tiber's stream an island where the central flood washes as 'twere two cities parted by the sundering waters : with equal threatening height the tower-clad banks rise in lofty buildings. Here stood Tiber and from this eminence beheld his prayer of a sudden fulfilled, saw the twin-souled brothers enter the Forum amid the press of thronging senators, the bared axes gleam afar and both sets of fasces brought forth from one threshold. He stood amazed at the sight and for a long time incredulous joy held his voice in check. Yet soon he thus began :

"Behold, Eurotas, river of Sparta, boastest thou that thy streams have ever nurtured such as these ? Did that false swan<sup>1</sup> beget a child to rival them, though 'tis true his sons could fight with the heavy glove and save ships from cruel tempests ? Behold new offspring outshining the stars to which Leda gave birth, men of my city for whose coming the Zodiac is now awatch, making ready his hollow tract of sky for a constellation that is to be. Henceforth let Olybrius rule the nightly sky, shedding his ruddy light where Pollux once shone, and where glinted Castor's fires there let glitter Probinus'



## CLAUDIAN

ipsi vela regent, ipsis donantibus auras 245  
 navita tranquillo moderabitur aequore pinum.  
 nunc pateras libare deis, nunc solvere multo  
 nectare corda libet. niveos iam pandite coetus,  
 Naides, et totum violis praetexite fontem ;  
 mella ferant silvae ; iam profluat ebrius amnis 250  
 mutatis in vina vadis ; iam sponte per agros  
 sudent inriguae spirantia balsama venae !  
 currat, qui sociae roget in convivia mensae  
 indigenas Fluvios, Italis quicumque suberrant  
 montibus Alpinasque bibunt de more pruinas : 255  
 Vulturisque rapax et Nar vitiatus odoro  
 sulphure tardatusque suis erroribus Ufens  
 et Phaëthontaeae perpressus damna ruinae  
 Eridanus flavaeque terens querceta Maricae  
 Liris et Oebaliae qui temperat arva Galaesus. 260  
 semper honoratus nostris celebrabitur undis  
 iste dies, semper dapibus recoletur opimis."

Sic ait et Nymphae patris praecepta secutae  
 tecta parant epulis ostroque infecta corusco  
 umida gemmiferis inluxit regia mensis. 265

O bene signatum fraterno nomine tempus !  
 o consanguineis felix auctoribus annus,  
 incipe quadrifidum Phoebi torquere laborem.  
 prima tibi procedat hiems non frigore torpens,  
 non canas vestita nives, non aspera ventis, 270  
 sed tepido calefacta Noto ; ver inde serenum  
 protinus et liquidi clementior aura Favoni  
 pratis te croceis pingat ; te messibus aestas

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

flame. These shall direct men's sails and vouchsafe those breezes whereby the sailor shall guide his bark o'er the calm ocean. Let us now pour libation to the new gods and ease our hearts with copious draughts of nectar. Naiads, now spread your snowy bands, wreath every brow with violets. Let the woods bring forth honey and the drunken river roll, its waters changed to wine ; let the watering streams that vein the fields give off the scent of balsam spice. Let one run and invite to the feast and banquet-board all the rivers of our land, even all that wander beneath the mountains of Italy and drink as their portion the Alpine snows, swift Vulturnus and Nar infected with ill-smelling sulphur, Ufens whose meanderings delay his course and Eridanus into whose waters Phaëthon fell headlong ; Liris who laves Marica's golden oak groves and Galaesus who tempers the fields of Sparta's colony Tarentum. This day shall always be held in honour and observed by our rivers and its anniversary ever celebrated with rich feastings."

So spake he, and the Nymphs, obeying their sire's behest, made ready the rooms for the banquet, and the watery palace, ablaze with gleaming purple, shone with jewelled tables.

O happy months to bear these brothers' name !  
O year blessed to own such a pair as overlords, begin thou to turn the laborious wheel of Phoebus' four-fold circle. First let thy winter pursue its course, sans numbing cold, not clothed in white snow nor torn by rough blasts, but warmed with the south wind's breath : next, be thy spring calm from the outset and let the limpid west wind's gentler breeze flood thy meads with yellow flowers.

## CLAUDIAN

induat autumnusque madentibus ambiat uvis.

omni nobilior lustris, tibi gloria soli 275

contigit exactum numquam memorata per aevum,

germanos habuisse duces ; te cuncta loquetur

tellus ; te variis scribent in floribus Horae

longaque perpetui ducent in saecula fasti.

## PANEGYRIC ON PROBINUS AND OLYBRIUS

May summer crown thee with harvest and autumn store thee with luscious grapes. An honour that no age has ever yet known, a privilege never yet heard of in times gone by, this has been thine and thine alone—to have had brothers as thy consuls. The whole world shall tell of thee, the Hours shall inscribe thy name in various flowers, and age-long annals hand thy fame down through the long centuries.



## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

### PREFACE

#### (II)

When Python had fallen, laid low by the arrow of Phoebus, his dying limbs outspread o'er Cirrha's heights—Python, whose coils covered whole mountains, whose maw swallowed rivers and whose bloody crest touched the stars—then Parnassus was free and the woods, their serpent fetters shaken off, began to grow tall with lofty trees. The mountain-ashes, long shaken by the dragon's sinuous coils, spread their leaves securely to the breeze, and Cephissus, who had so often foamed with his poisonous venom, now flowed a purer stream with limpid wave. The whole country echoed with the cry, "hail, Healer": every land sang Phoebus' praise. A fuller wind shakes the tripod, and the gods, hearing the Muses' sweet song from afar off, gather in the dread caverns of Themis.

A blessed band comes together to hear my song, now that a second Python has been slain by the weapons of that master of ours who made the rule of the brother Emperors hold the world steady, observing justice in peace and showing vigour in war.

## LIBER I

### (III)

Saepe mihi dubiam traxit sententia mentem  
curarent superi terras an nullus inesset  
rector et incerto fluerent mortalia casu.  
nam cum dispositi quaesissem foedera mundi  
praescriptosque mari fines annisque meatus 5  
et lucis noctisque vices : tunc omnia rebar  
consilio firmata dei, qui lege moveri  
sidera, qui fruges diverso tempore nasci,  
qui variam Phoeben alieno iusserit igni  
compleri Solemque suo, porrexerit undis 10  
litora, tellurem medio libraverit axe.  
sed cum res hominum tanta caligine volvi  
adspicerem laetosque diu florere nocentes  
vexarique pios, rursus labefacta cadebat  
religio causaeque viam non sponte sequebar 15  
alterius, vacuo quae currere semina motu  
adfirmat magnumque novas per inane figuras  
fortuna non arte regi, quae numina sensu  
ambiguo vel nulla putat vel nescia nostri.

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<sup>1</sup> Epicureanism.

## BOOK 1

### (III)

My mind has often wavered between two opinions : have the gods a care for the world or is there no ruler therein and do mortal things drift as dubious chance dictates ? For when I investigated the laws and the ordinances of heaven and observed the sea's appointed limits, the year's fixed cycle and the alternation of light and darkness, then methought everything was ordained according to the direction of a God who had bidden the stars move by fixed laws, plants grow at different seasons, the changing moon fulfil her circle with borrowed light and the sun shine by his own, who spread the shore before the waves and balanced the world in the centre of the firmament. But when I saw the impenetrable mist which surrounds human affairs, the wicked happy and long prosperous and the good discomfited, then in turn my belief in God was weakened and failed, and even against mine own will I embraced the tenets of that other philosophy<sup>1</sup> which teaches that atoms drift in purposeless motion and that new forms throughout the vast void are shaped by chance and not design—that philosophy which believes in God in an ambiguous sense, or holds that there be no gods, or that they are careless of our doings. At



## CLAUDIAN

abstulit hunc tandem Rufini poena tumultum                    20  
absolvitque deos. iam non ad culmina rerum  
iniustos crevisse queror ; tolluntur in altum,  
ut lapsu graviore ruant. vos pandite vati,  
Pierides, quo tanta lues eruperit ortu.

Invidiae quondam stimulis incanduit atrox                    25  
Allecto, placidas late cum cerneret urbes.  
protinus infernas ad limina taetra sorores  
concilium deforme vocat. glomerantur in unum  
innumerae pestes Erebi, quascumque sinistro  
Nox genuit fetu : nutrix Discordia belli,                    30  
imperiosa Fames, leto vicina Senectus  
impatiensque sui Morbus Livorque secundis  
anxius et scisso maerens velamine Luctus  
et Timor et caeco praeceps Audacia vultu  
et Luxus populator opum, quem semper adhaerens            35  
infelix humili gressu comitatur Egestas,  
foedaque Avaritiae complexae pectora matris  
insomnes longo veniunt examine Curae.  
complentur vario ferrata sedilia coetu  
torvaeque collectis stipatur curia monstros.                    40  
Allecto stetit in mediis vulgusque tacere  
iussit et obstantes in tergum reppulit angues  
perque umeros errare dedit. tum corde sub imo  
inclusam rabidis patefecit vocibus iram :

“ Sicine tranquillo produci saecula cursu,                    45  
sic fortunatas patiemur vivere gentes ?  
quae nova corrumpit nostros clementia mores ?  
quo rabies innata perit ? quid inania prosunt  
verbera ? quid facibus nequiquam cingimur atris ?

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

last Rufinus' fate has dispelled this uncertainty and freed the gods from this imputation. No longer can I complain that the unrighteous man reaches the highest pinnacle of success. He is raised aloft that he may be hurled down in more headlong ruin. Muses, unfold to your poet whence sprang this grievous pest.

Dire Allecto once kindled with jealous wrath on seeing widespread peace among the cities of men. Straightway she summons the hideous council of the nether-world sisters to her foul palace gates. Hell's numberless monsters are gathered together, Night's children of ill-omened birth. Discord, mother of war, imperious Hunger, Age, near neighbour to Death; Disease, whose life is a burden to himself; Envy that brooks not another's prosperity, woeful Sorrow with rent garments; Fear and foolhardy Rashness with sightless eyes; Luxury, destroyer of wealth, to whose side ever clings unhappy Want with humble tread, and the long company of sleepless Cares, hanging round the foul neck of their mother Avarice. The iron seats are filled with all this rout and the grim chamber is thronged with the monstrous crowd. Allecto stood in their midst and called for silence, thrusting behind her back the snaky hair that swept her face and letting it play over her shoulders. Then with mad utterance she unlocked the anger deep hidden in her heart.

"Shall we allow the centuries to roll on in this even tenour, and man to live thus blessed? What novel kindness has corrupted our characters? Where is our inbred fury? Of what use the lash with none to suffer beneath it? Why this purposeless girdle of smoky torches? Sluggards, ye,

## CLAUDIAN

heu nimis ignavae, quas Iuppiter arcet Olympo, 50  
 Theodosius terris. en aurea nascitur aetas,  
 en proles antiqua redit. Concordia, Virtus  
 cumque Fide Pietas alta cervice vagantur  
 insignemque canunt nostra de plebe triumphum.  
 pro dolor ! ipsa mihi liquidas delapsa per auras 55  
 Iustitia insultat vitiisque a stirpe recisis  
 elicit oppressas tenebroso carcere leges.  
 at nos indecores longo torpebimus aevo  
 omnibus eiectae regnis ! agnoscite tandem  
 quid Furias deceat ; consuetas sumite vires 60  
 conventuque nefas tanto decernite dignum.  
 iam cupio Stygiis invadere nubibus astra,  
 iam flatu violare diem, laxare profundo  
 frena mari, fluvios ruptis inmittere ripis  
 et rerum vexare fidem."

Sic fata cruentum 65

mugit et totos serpentum erexit hiatus  
 noxiaque effudit concusso crine venena.  
 anceps motus erat vulgi. pars maxima bellum  
 indicit superis, pars Ditis iura veretur,  
 dissensuque alitur rumor : ceu murmurat alti 70  
 impacata quies pelagi, cum flamine fracto  
 durat adhuc saevitque tumor dubiumque per aestum  
 lassa recedentis fluitant vestigia venti.

Improba mox surgit tristi de sede Megaera,  
 quam penes insani fremitus animique profanus 75  
 error et undantes spumis furialibus irae :  
 non nisi quaesitum cognata caede cruorem  
 illicitumve bibit, patrius quem fuderit ensis,

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

whom Jove has excluded from heaven, Theodosius from earth. Lo! a golden age begins; lo! the old breed of men returns. Peace and Godliness, Love and Honour hold high their heads throughout the world and sing a proud song of triumph over our conquered folk. Justice herself (oh the pity of it!), down-gliding through the limpid air, exults over me and, now that crime has been cut down to the roots, frees law from the dark prison wherein she lay oppressed. Shall we, expelled from every land, lie this long age in shameful torpor? Ere it be too late recognize a Fury's duty: resume your wonted strength and decree a crime worthy of this august assembly. Fain would I shroud the stars in Stygian darkness, smirch the light of day with our breath, unbridle the ocean deeps, hurl rivers against their shattered banks, and break the bonds of the universe."

So spake she with cruel roar and uproused every gaping serpent mouth as she shook her snaky locks and scattered their baneful poison. Of two minds was the band of her sisters. The greater number was for declaring war upon heaven, yet some respected still the ordinances of Dis and the uproar grew by reason of their dissension, even as the sea's calm is not at once restored, but the deep still thunders when, for all the wind be dropped, the swelling tide yet flows, and the last weary winds of the departing storm play o'er the tossing waves.

Thereupon cruel Megaera rose from her funereal seat, mistress she of madness' howlings and impious ill and wrath bathed in fury's foam. No blood her drink but that flowing from kindred slaughter and forbidden crime, shed by a father's, by a brother's

## CLAUDIAN

quem dederint fratres ; haec terruit Herculis ora  
 et defensores terrarum polluit arcus, 80  
 haec Athamanteae direxit spicula dextrae,  
 haec Agamemnonios inter bacchata penates  
 alternis lusit iugulis ; hac auspice taedae  
 Oedipoden matri, natae iunxere Thyesten.  
 quae tunc horrisonis effatur talia dictis : 85  
 “ Signa quidem, sociae, divos attollere contra  
 nec fas est nec posse reor ; sed laedere mundum  
 si libet et populis commune intendere letum.  
 est mihi prodigium cunctis inmanius hydrys,  
 tigride mobilius feta, violentius Austris 90  
 acribus, Euripi fulvis incertius undis  
 Rufinus, quem prima meo de matre cadentem  
 suscepi gremio. parvus reptavit in isto  
 saepe sinu teneroque per ardua colla volutus  
 ubera quaesivit fletu linguisque trisulcis 95  
 mollia lambentes finxerunt membra cerastae ;  
 meque etiam tradente dolos artesque nocendi  
 edidicit : simulare fidem sensusque minaces  
 protegere et blando fraudem praetexere risu,  
 plenus saevitiae lucrique cupidine fervens. 100  
 non Tartesiacis illum satiaret harenis  
 tempestas pretiosa Tagi, non stagna rubentis  
 aurea Pactoli ; totumque exhausserit Hermum,  
 ardebit maiore siti. quam fallere mentes  
 doctus et unanimos odiis turbare sodales ! 105  
 talem progenies hominum si prisca tulisset,  
 Perithoum fugeret Theseus, offensus Orestem  
 desereret Pylades, odisset Castora Pollux.  
 ipsa quidem fateor vinci rapidoque magistram

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<sup>1</sup> Athamas, king of Orchomenus, murdered his son Learchus in a fit of madness.

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

sword. 'Twas she made e'en Hercules afraid and brought shame upon that bow that had freed the world of monsters ; she aimed the arrow in Athamas'<sup>1</sup> hand : she took her pleasure in murder after murder, a mad fury in Agamemnon's palace ; beneath her auspices wedlock mated Oedipus with his mother and Thyestes with his daughter. Thus then she speaks with dread-sounding words :

"To raise our standards against the gods, my sisters, is neither right nor, methinks, possible ; but hurt the world we may, if such our wish, and bring an universal destruction upon its inhabitants. I have a monster more savage than the hydra brood, swifter than the mother tigress, fiercer than the south wind's blast, more treacherous than Euripus' yellow flood—Rufinus. I was the first to gather him, a new-born babe, to my bosom. Often did the child nestle in mine embrace and seek my breast, his arms thrown about my neck in a flood of infant tears. My snakes shaped his soft limbs licking them with their three-forked tongues. I taught him guile whereby he learnt the arts of injury and deceit, how to conceal the intended menace and cover his treachery with a smile, full-filled with savagery and hot with lust of gain. Him nor the sands of rich Tagus' flood by Tartessus' town could satisfy nor the golden waters of ruddy Pactolus ; should he drink all Hermus' stream he would parch with the greedier thirst. How skilled to deceive and wreck friendships with hate ! Had that old generation of men produced such an one as he, Theseus had fled Pirithous, Pylades deserted Orestes in wrath, Pollux hated Castor. I confess myself his inferior : his quick genius has outstripped

## CLAUDIAN

praevenit ingenio ; nec plus sermone morabor : 110  
 solus habet scelerum quidquid possedimus omnes.  
 hunc ego, si vestrae res est accommoda turbae,  
 regalem ad summi producam principis aulam.  
 sit licet ipse Numa gravior, sit denique Minos,  
 cedit et insidiis nostri flectetur alumni." 115

Orantem sequitur clamor cunctaeque profanas  
 porrexere manus inventaque tristia laudant.  
 illa ubi caeruleo vestes conexuit angue  
 nodavitque adamante comas, Phlegethonta sonorum  
 poscit et ambusto flagrantis ab aggere ripae 120,  
 ingentem piceo succendit gurgite pinum  
 pigraque veloces per Tartara concutit alas.

Est locus extremum pandit qua Gallia litus  
 Oceani praetentus aquis, ubi fertur Ulixes  
 sanguine libato populum movisse silentem. 125  
 illic umbrarum tenui stridore volantum  
 flebilis auditur questus ; simulacra coloni  
 pallida defunctasque vident migrare figuras.  
 hinc dea prosiluit Phoebique egressa serenos  
 infecit radios ululatuque aethera rupit 130  
 terrifico : sentit ferale Britannia murmur  
 et Senonum quatit arva fragor revolutaque Tethys  
 substitit et Rhenus proiecta torpuit urna.  
 tunc in canitiem mutatis sponte colubris  
 longaevum mentita senem rugisque seueras 135  
 persulcata genas et ficto languida passu  
 invadit muros Elusae, notissima dudum

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<sup>1</sup> Their territory lay some sixty miles S.E. of Paris. Its chief town was Agedincum (mod. Sens).

<sup>2</sup> Elusa (the modern Eauze in the Department of Gers) was the birthplace of Rufinus (*cf.* Zosim. iv. 51. 1).

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

his preceptress : in a word (that I waste not your time further) all the wickedness that is ours in common is his alone. Him will I introduce, if the plan commend itself to you, to the kingly palace of the emperor of the world. Be he wiser than Numa, be he Minos' self, needs must he yield and succumb to the treachery of my foster child."

A shout followed her words : all stretched forth their impious hands and applauded the awful plot. When Megaera had gathered together her dress with the black serpent that girdled her, and bound her hair with combs of steel, she approached the sounding stream of Phlegethon, and seizing a tall pine-tree from the scorched summit of the flaming bank kindled it in the pitchy flood, then plied her swift wings o'er sluggish Tartarus.

There is a place where Gaul stretches her furthest shore spread out before the waves of Ocean : 'tis there that Ulysses is said to have called up the silent ghosts with a libation of blood. There is heard the mournful weeping of the spirits of the dead as they flit by with faint sound of wings, and the inhabitants see the pale ghosts pass and the shades of the dead. 'Twas from here the goddess leapt forth, dimmed the sun's fair beams and clave the sky with horrid howlings. Britain felt the deadly sound, the noise shook the country of the Senones,<sup>1</sup> Tethys stayed her tide, and Rhine let fall his urn and shrank his stream. Thereupon, in the guise of an old man, her serpent locks changed at her desire to snowy hair, her dread cheeks furrowed with many a wrinkle and feigning weariness in her gait she enters the walls of Elusa,<sup>2</sup> in search of the house she had long known so well. Long



## CLAUDIAN

tecta petens, oculisque diu liventibus haesit  
peiores mirata virum, tum talia fatur :

“ Otia te, Rufine, iuvant frustra iuventae 140

consumis florem patriis inglorius arvis ?

heu nescis quid fata tibi, quid sidera debent,

quid Fortuna parat : toto dominabere mundo,

si parere velis ! artus ne sperne seniles !

namque mihi magicae vires aevique futuri 145

praescius ardor inest ; novi quo Thessala cantu

eripiat lunare iubar, quid signa sagacis

Aegypti valeant, qua gens Chaldaea vocatis

imperet arte deis, nec me latuere fluentes

arboribus suci funestarumque potestas 150

herbarum, quidquid letali gramine pollens

Caucasus et Scythicae vernant in crimina<sup>1</sup> rupes,

quas legit Medea ferox et callida Circe.

saepius horrendos manes sacrisque litavi

nocturnis Hecaten et condita funera traxi 155

carminibus victura meis, multosque canendo,

quamvis Parcarum restarent fila, peremi.

ire vagas quercus et fulmen stare coegi

versa non pronos curvavi flumina lapsu

in fontes reditura suos. ne vana locutum 160

me fortasse putes, mutatos cerne penates.”

dixerat, et niveae (mirum !) coepere columnae

ditari subitoque trabes lucere metallo.

Inlecebris capitur nimiumque elatus avaro

pascitur aspectu. sic rex ad prima tumebat 165

<sup>1</sup> *gramina E : other codd. gramine. Birt. conjectures toxica, Heinsius carmina. I take Postgate's crimina*

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

she stood and gazed with jealous eyes, marvelling at a man worse than herself; then spake she thus: "Does ease content thee, Rufinus? Wastest thou in vain the flower of thy youth inglorious thus in thy father's fields? Thou knowest not what fate and the stars owe thee, what fortune makes ready. So thou wilt obey me thou shalt be lord of the whole world. Despise not an old man's feeble limbs: I have the gift of magic and the fire of prophecy is within me. I have learned the incantations wherewith Thessalian witches pull down the bright moon, I know the meaning of the wise Egyptians' runes, the art whereby the Chaldeans impose their will upon the subject gods, the various saps that flow within trees and the power of deadly herbs; all those that grow on Caucasus rich in poisonous plants, or, to man's bane, clothe the crags of Scythia; herbs such as cruel Medea gathered and curious Circe. Often in nocturnal rites have I sought to propitiate the dread ghosts and Hecate, and recalled the shades of buried men to live again by my magic: many, too, has my wizardry brought to destruction though the Fates had yet somewhat of their life's thread to spin. I have caused oaks to walk and the thunderbolt to stay his course, aye, and made rivers reverse their course and flow backwards to their fount. Lest thou perchance think these be but idle boasts behold the change of thine own house." At these words the white pillars, to his amazement, began to turn into gold and the beams of a sudden to shine with metal.

His senses are captured by the bait, and, thrilled beyond measure, he feasts his greedy eyes on the sight. So Midas, king of Lydia, swelled at first

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Maeonius, pulchro cum verteret omnia tactu ;  
 sed postquam riguisse dapes fulvamque revinctos  
 in glaciem vidit latices, tum munus acerbum  
 sensit et invisio votum damnavit in auro.  
 ergo animi victus “sequimur quocumque vocabis, 170  
 seu tu vir seu numen ” ait, patriaque relictâ  
 Eoas Furiae iussu tendebat ad arces  
 instabilesque olim Symplegadas et freta remis  
 inclita Thessalicis, celsa qua Bosphorus urbe  
 splendet et Odrysiis Asiam discriminat oris. 175

Ut longum permensus iter ductusque maligno  
 stamine fatorum claram subrepsit in aulam,  
 ilicet ambitio nasci, discedere rectum,  
 venum cuncta dari ; profert arcana, clientes  
 fallit et ambitos a principe vendit honores. 180  
 ingeminat crimen, commoti pectoris ignem  
 nutrit et exiguum stimulando vulnus acerbât.  
 ac velut innumeros amnes accedere Nereus  
 nescit et undantem quamvis hinc hauriat Histrum,  
 hinc bibat aestivum septeno gurgite Nilum, 185  
 par semper similisque manet : sic fluctibus auri  
 expleri calor ille nequit. cuicumque monile  
 contextum gemmis aut praedia culta fuissent,  
 Rufino populandus erat, dominoque parabat  
 exitium fecundus ager ; metuenda colonis 190  
 fertilitas : laribus pellit, detrudit avitis

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

with pride when he found he could transform everything he touched to gold: but when he beheld his food grow rigid and his drink harden into golden ice then he understood that this gift was a bane and in his loathing for the gold cursed his prayer. Thus Rufinus, overcome, cried out: "Whithersoever thou summonest me I follow, be thou man or god." Then at the Fury's bidding he left his fatherland and approached the cities of the East, threading the once floating Symplegades and the seas renowned for the voyage of the Argo, ship of Thessaly, till he came to where, beneath its high-walled town, the gleaming Bosphorus separates Asia from the Thracian coast.

When he had completed this long journey and, led by the evil thread of the fates, had won his way into the far-famed palace, then did ambition straightway come to birth and right was no more. Everything had its price. He betrayed secrets, deceived dependents, and sold honours that had been wheedled from the emperor. He followed up one crime with another, heaping fuel on the inflamed mind and probing and embittering the erstwhile trivial wound. And yet, as Nereus knows no addition from the infinitude of rivers that flow into him and though here he drains Danube's wave and there Nile's summer flood with its sevenfold mouth, yet ever remains his same and constant self, so Rufinus' thirst knew no abatement for all the streams of gold that flowed in upon him. Had any a necklace studded with jewels or a fertile demesne he was sure prey for Rufinus: a rich property assured the ruin of its own possessor: fertility was the husbandman's bane. He drives them from their homes, expels them from the lands their sires had

## CLAUDIAN

finibus ; aut aufert vivis aut occupat heres.  
 congestae cumulantur opes orbisque ruinas  
 accipit una domus : populi servire coacti  
 plenaque privato succumbunt oppida regno. 195

Quo, vesane, ruis ? teneas utrumque licebit  
 Oceanum, laxet rutilos tibi Lydia fontes,  
 iungatur solium Croesi Cyrique tiara :  
 numquam dives eris, numquam satiabere quaestu.  
 semper inops quicumque cupit. contentus honesto  
 Fabricius parvo spernebat munera regum 201  
 sudabatque gravi consul Serranus aratro  
 et casa pugnaces Curios angusta tegebat.  
 haec mihi paupertas opulentior, haec mihi tecta  
 culminibus maiora tuis. ibi quaerit inanes 205  
 luxuries nocitura cibos ; hic donat inemptas  
 terra dapes. rapiunt Tyrios ibi vellera sucos  
 et picturatae saturantur murice vestes ;  
 hic radiant flores et prati viva voluptas  
 ingenio variata suo. fulgentibus illic 210  
 surgunt strata toris ; hic mollis panditur herba  
 sollicitum curis non abruptura soporem.  
 turba salutantum latas ibi perstrepat aedes ;  
 hic avium cantus, labentis murmura rivi.  
 vivitur exiguo melius ; natura beatis 215  
 omnibus esse dedit, si quis cognoverit uti.  
 haec si nota forent, frueremur simplice cultu,  
 classica non gemerent, non stridula fraxinus iret,  
 nec ventus quateret puppes nec machina muros.

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

left them, either wresting them from the living owners or fastening upon them as an inheritor. Massed riches are piled up and a single house receives the plunder of a world; whole peoples are forced into slavery, and thronging cities bow beneath the tyranny of a private man.

Madman, what shall be the end? Though thou possess either Ocean, though Lydia pour forth for thee her golden waters, though thou join Croesus' throne to Cyrus' crown, yet shalt thou never be rich nor ever contented with thy booty. The greedy man is always poor. Fabricius, happy in his honourable poverty, despised the gifts of monarchs; the consul Serranus sweated at his heavy plough and a small cottage gave shelter to the warlike Curii. To my mind such poverty as this is richer than thy wealth, such a home greater than thy palaces. There pernicious luxury seeks for the food that satisfieth not; here the earth provides a banquet for which is nought to pay. With thee wool absorbs the dyes of Tyre; thy patterned clothes are stained with purple; here are bright flowers and the meadow's breathing charm which owes its varied hues but to itself. There are beds piled on glittering bedsteads; here stretches the soft grass, that breaks not sleep with anxious cares. There a crowd of clients dines through the spacious halls, here is song of birds and the murmur of the gliding stream. A frugal life is best. Nature has given the opportunity of happiness to all, knew they but how to use it. Had we realized this we should now have been enjoying a simple life, no trumpets would be sounding, no whistling spear would speed, no ship be buffeted by the wind, no siege-engine overthrow battlements.

## CLAUDIAN

Crescebat scelerata sitis praedaeque recentis      220  
 incestus flagrabat amor, nullusque petendi  
 cogendive pudor : crebris periuria nectit  
 blanditiis ; sociat perituro foedere dextras.  
 si semel e tantis poscenti quisque negasset,  
 effera praetumido quatiebat corda furore.      225  
 quae sic Gaetuli iaculo percussa leaena  
 aut Hyrcana premens raptorem belua partus  
 aut serpens calcata furit ? iurata deorum  
 maiestas teritur ; nusquam reverentia mensae.  
 non coniunx, non ipse simul, non pignora caesa      230  
 sufficiunt odiis ; non extinxisse propinquos,  
 non notos egisse sat est ; excindere cives  
 funditus et nomen gentis delere laborat.  
 nec celeri perimit leto ; crudelibus ante  
 suppliciis fruitur ; cruciatus, vincla, tenebras      235  
 dilato mucrone parat. pro saevior ense  
 parcendi rabies concessaque vita dolori !  
 mors adeone parum est ? causis fallacibus instat,  
 arguit attonitos se iudice. cetera segnis,  
 ad facinus velox, penitus regione remotas      240  
 impiger ire vias : non illum Sirius ardens  
 brumave Riphaeo stridens Aquilone retardat.  
 effera torquebant avidae praecordia curae,  
 effugeret ne quis gladios neu perderet ullum  
 Augusto miserante nefas. non flectitur annis,      245  
 non aetate labat : iuvenum rorantia colla  
 ante patrum vultus stricta cecidere securi ;  
 42

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

Still grew Rufinus' wicked greed, and his impious passion for new-won wealth blazed yet fiercer; no feeling of shame kept him from demanding and extorting money. He combines perjury with ceaseless cajolery, ratifying with a hand-clasp the bond he purposes to break. Should any dare to refuse his demand for one thing out of so many, his fierce heart would be stirred with swelling wrath. Was ever lioness wounded with a Gaetulian's spear, or Hyrcan tiger pursuing the robber of her young, was ever bruised serpent so fierce? He swears by the majesty of the gods and tramples on his oath. He reverences not the laws of hospitality. To kill a wife and her husband with her and her children sates not his anger; 'tis not enough to slaughter relations and drive friends into exile; he strives to destroy every citizen of Rome and to blot out the very name of our race. Nor does he even slay with a swift death; ere that he enjoys the infliction of cruel torture; the rack, the chain, the lightless cell, these he sets before the final blow. Why, this remission is more savage, more madly cruel, than the sword—this grant of life that agony may accompany it! Is death not enough for him? With treacherous charges he attacks; dazed wretches find him at once accuser and judge. Slow to all else he is swift to crime and tireless to visit the ends of the earth in its pursuit. Neither the Dog-star's heat nor the wintry blasts of the Thracian north wind detain him. Feverish anxiety torments his cruel heart lest any escape his sword, or an emperor's pardon lose him an opportunity for injury. Neither age nor youth can move his pity: before their father's eyes his bloody axe severs boys' heads



## CLAUDIAN

ibat grandaevus nato moriente superstes  
 post trabeas exul. quis prodere tanta relatu  
 funera, quis caedes possit deflere nefandas ? 250  
 quid tale inmanes umquam gessisse feruntur  
 vel Sinis Isthmiaca pinu vel rupe profunda  
 Sciron vel Phalaris tauro vel carcere Sulla ?  
 o mites Diomedis equi ! Busiridis arae  
 clementes ! iam Cinna pius, iam Spartace segnis 255  
 Rufino collatus eris !

Deiecerat omnes

occultis odiis terror tacitique sepultos  
 suspirant gemitus indignarique verentur.  
 at non magnanimi virtus Stilichonis eodem  
 fracta metu ; solus medio sed turbine rerum 260  
 contra letiferos rictus contraque rapacem  
 movit tela feram, volucris non praepete cursu  
 vectus equi, non Pegaseis adiutus habenis.  
 hic cunctis optata quies, hic sola pericli  
 turris erat clipeusque trucem porrectus in hostem,  
 hic profugis sedes adversaque signa furori, 266  
 servandis hic castra bonis.

Hucusque minatus

haerebat retroque fuga cedebat inerti :  
 haud secus hiberno tumidus cum vertice torrens  
 saxa rotat volvitque nemus pontesque revellit, 270  
 frangitur obiectu scopuli quaerensque meatum  
 pumat et inlisa montem circumtonat unda.

Qua dignum te laude feram, qui paene ruenti

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

from their bodies ; an aged man, once a consul, survived the murder of his son but to be driven into exile. Who can bring himself to tell of so many murders, who can adequately mourn such impious slaughter ? Do men tell that cruel Sinis of Corinth e'er wrought such wickedness with his pine-tree, or Sciron with his precipitous rock, or Phalaris with his brazen bull, or Sulla with his prison ? O gentle horses of Diomedes ! O pitiful altars of Busiris ! Henceforth, compared with Rufinus thou, Cinna, shalt be loving, and thou, Spartacus, a sluggard.

All were a prey to terror, for men knew not where next his hidden hatred would break forth, they sob in silence for the tears they dare not shed and fear to show their indignation. Yet is not the spirit of great-hearted Stilicho broken by this same fear. Alone amid the general calamity he took arms against this monster of greed and his devouring maw, though not borne on the swift course of any winged steed nor aided by Pegasus' reins. In him all found the quiet they longed for, he was their one defence in danger, their shield out-held against the fierce foe, the exile's sanctuary, standard confronting the madness of Rufinus, fortress for the protection of the good.

Thus far Rufinus advanced his threats and stayed ; then fell back in coward flight : even as a torrent swollen with winter rains rolls down great stones in its course, overwhelms woods, tears away bridges, yet is broken by a jutting rock, and, seeking a way through, foams and thunders about the cliff with shattered waves.

How can I praise thee worthily, thou who sus-

## CLAUDIAN

lapsuroque tuos umeros obieceris orbi ?  
 te nobis trepidae sidus ceu dulce carinae 275  
 ostendere dei, geminis quae lassa procellis  
 tunditur et victo trahitur iam caeca magistro.  
 Inachus Rubro perhibetur in aequore Perseus  
 Neptuni domuisse pecus, sed tutior alis :  
 te non penna vehit ; rigida cum Gorgone Perseus :  
 tu non vipereo defensus crine Medusae ; 281  
 illum vilis amor suspensae virginis egit :  
 te Romana salus. taceat superata vetustas,  
 Herculeos conferre tuis iam desinat actus.  
 una Cleonaeum pascebat silva leonem ; 285  
 Arcadiae saltum vastabat dentibus unum  
 saevus aper, tuque o compressa matre rebellans  
 non ultra Libyae fines, Antaeae, nocebas,  
 solaque fulmineo resonabat Creta iuvenco  
 Lernaeamque virens obsederat hydra paludem. 290  
 hoc monstrum non una palus, non una tremebat  
 insula, sed Latia quidquid dicione subactum  
 vivit, et a primis Ganges horrebat Hiberis.  
 hoc neque Geryon triplex nec turbidus Orci  
 ianitor aequabit nec si concurrat in unum 295  
 vis hydrae Scyllaeque fames et flamma Chimaerae.  
 Certamen sublime diu, sed moribus impar  
 virtutum scelerumque fuit. iugulare minatur :  
 tu prohibes ; ditem spoliat : tu reddis egenti ;  
 eruit : instauras ; accendit proelia : vincis. 300  
 46

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

tainedst with thy shoulders the tottering world in its threatened fall? The gods gave thee to us as they show a welcome star to frightened mariners whose weary bark is buffeted with storms of wind and wave and drifts with blind course now that her steersman is beaten. Perseus, descendant of Inachus, is said to have overcome Neptune's monsters in the Red Sea, but he was helped by his wings; no wing bore thee aloft: Perseus was armed with the Gorgons' head that turneth all to stone; the snaky locks of Medusa protected not thee. His motive was but the love of a chained girl, thine the salvation of Rome. The days of old are surpassed; let them keep silence and cease to compare Hercules' labours with thine. 'Twas but one wood that sheltered the lion of Cleonae, the savage boar's tusks laid waste a single Arcadian vale, and thou, rebel Antaeus, holding thy mother earth in thine embrace, didst no hurt beyond the borders of Africa. Crete alone re-echoed to the bellowings of the fire-breathing bull, and the green hydra beleaguered no more than Lerna's lake. But this monster Rufinus terrified not one lake nor one island: whatsoever lives beneath the Roman rule, from distant Spain to Ganges' stream, was in fear of him. Neither triple Geryon nor Hell's fierce janitor can vie with him nor could the conjoined terrors of powerful Hydra, ravenous Scylla, and fiery Chimaera.

Long hung the contest in suspense, but the struggle betwixt vice and virtue was ill-matched in character. Rufinus threatens slaughter, thou stayest his hand; he robs the rich, thou givest back to the poor; he overthrows, thou restorest; he sets wars afoot, thou winnest them. As a pestilence, growing from day

## CLAUDIAN

ac velut infecto morbus crudescere caelo  
 incipiens primos pecudum depascitur artus,  
 mox populos urbesque rapit ventisque perustis  
 corruptos Stygiam pestem desudat in amnes :  
 sic avidus praedo iam non per singula saevit. 305  
 sed sceptris inferre minas omnique perempto  
 milite Romanas ardet prosternere vires,  
 iamque Getas Histrumque movet Scythiamque  
                   receptat  
 auxilio traditque suas hostilibus armis  
 reliquias. mixtis descendit Sarmata Dacis 310  
 et qui cornipedes in pocula vulnerat audax  
 Massagetes caesamque bibens Maeotin Alanus  
 membraque qui ferro gaudet pinxisse Gelonus,  
 Rufino collecta manus. vetat ille domari  
 innectitque moras et congrua tempora differt. 315  
 nam tua cum Geticas stravisset dextra catervas,  
 ulta ducis socii letum, parsque una maneret  
 debilior facilisque capi, tunc impius ille  
 proditor imperii coniuratusque Getarum  
 distulit instantes eluso principe pugnas 320  
 Hunorum laturus opem, quos adfore bello  
 norat et invisus mox se coniungere castris.  
 Est genus extremos Scythiae vergentis in ortus  
 trans gelidum Tanain, quo non famosius ullum  
 Arctos alit. turpes habitus obscaenaque visu 325  
 corpora ; mens duro numquam cessura labori ;  
 praeda cibus, vitanda Ceres frontemque secari

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<sup>1</sup> Here and throughout his poems Claudian refers to the Visigoths as the Getae.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Introduction, p. x.

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

to day by reason of the infected air, fastens first upon the bodies of animals but soon sweeps away peoples and cities, and when the winds blow hot spreads its hellish poison to the polluted streams, so the ambitious rebel marks down no private prey, but hurls his eager threats at kings, and seeks to destroy Rome's army and overthrow her might. Now he stirs up the Getae<sup>1</sup> and the tribes on Danube's banks, allies himself with Scythia and exposes what few his cruelties have spared to the sword of the enemy. There march against us a mixed horde of Sarmatians and Dacians, the Massagetes who cruelly wound their horses that they may drink their blood, the Alans who break the ice and drink the waters of Maeotis' lake, and the Geloni who tattoo their limbs: these form Rufinus' army. And he brooks not their defeat; he frames delays and postpones the fitting season for battle. For when thy right hand, Stilicho, had scattered the Getic bands and avenged the death of thy brother general, when one section of Rufinus' army was thus weakened and made an easy prey, then that foul traitor, that conspirator with the Getae, tricked the emperor and put off the instant day of battle, meaning to ally himself with the Huns, whom he knew would fight and quickly join the enemies of Rome.<sup>2</sup>

These Huns are a tribe who live on the extreme eastern borders of Scythia, beyond frozen Tanais; most infamous of all the children of the north. Hideous to look upon are their faces and loathsome their bodies, but indefatigable is their spirit. The chase supplies their food; bread they will not eat. They love to slash their faces and hold it a

## CLAUDIAN

ludus et occisos pulchrum iurare parentes.  
 nec plus nubigenas duplex natura biformes  
 cognatis aptavit equis ; acerrima nullo 330  
 ordine mobilitas insperatique recursus.

Quos tamen impavidus contra spumantis ad Hebri  
 tendis aquas, sic ante tubas aciemque precatus :  
 “ Mavors, nubifero seu tu procumbis in Haemo 335  
 seu te cana gelu Rhodope seu remige Medo  
 sollicitatus Athos seu caligantia nigris  
 ilicibus Pangaea tenent, accingere mecum  
 et Thracas defende tuos si laetior adsit  
 gloria, vestita spoliis donabere quercu.”

Audiit illa pater scopulisque nivalibus Haemi 340  
 surgit et hortatur celeres clamore ministros :  
 “ fer galeam, Bellona, mihi nexusque rotarum  
 tende, Pavor. frenet rapidos Formido iugales.  
 festinas urgete manus. meus ecce paratur  
 ad bellum Stilicho, qui me de more tropaeis 345  
 ditat et hostiles suspendit in arbore cristas.  
 communes semper litui, communia nobis  
 signa canunt iunctoque sequor tentoria curru.”  
 sic fatus campo insiluit lateque fugatas  
 hinc Stilicho turmas, illinc Gradivus agebat 350  
 et clipeis et mole pares ; stat cassis utrique  
 sidereis hirsuta iubis loricaque cursu  
 aestuat et largo saturatur vulnere cornus.

Acrior interea voto multisque Megaera  
 luxuriata malis maestam deprendit in arce 355

50

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

righteous act to swear by their murdered parents. Their double nature fitted not better the twi-formed Centaurs to the horses that were parts of them. Disorderly, but of incredible swiftness, they often return to the fight when little expected.

Fearless, however, against such forces, thou, Stilicho, approachest the waters of foaming Hebrus and thus prayest ere the trumpets sound and the fight begins: "Mars, whether thou reclinest on cloud-capped Haemus, or frost-white Rhodope holdeth thee, or Athos, severed to give passage to the Persian fleet, or Pangaeus, gloomy with dark holm-oaks, gird thyself at my side and defend thine own land of Thrace. If victory smile on us, thy meed shall be an oak stump adorned with spoils."

The Father heard his prayer and rose from the snowy peaks of Haemus shouting commands to his speedy servants: "Bellona, bring my helmet; fasten me, Panic, the wheels upon my chariot; harness my swift horses, Fear. Hasten: speed on your work. See, my Stilicho makes him ready for war; Stilicho whose habit it is to load me with rich trophies and hang upon the oak the plumed helmets of his enemies. For us together the trumpets ever sound the call to battle; yoking my chariot I follow where-soever he pitch his camp." So spake he and leapt upon the plain, and on this side Stilicho scattered the enemy bands in broadcast flight and on that Mars; alike the twain in accoutrement and stature. The helmets of either tower with bristling crests, their breastplates flash as they speed along and their spears take their fill of widely dealt wounds.

Meanwhile Megaera, more eager now she has got her way, and revelling in this widespread



## CLAUDIAN

Iustitiam diroque prior sic ore lacessit :

“ en tibi prisca quies renovataque saecula rursus,  
ut rebare, vigent ? en nostra potentia cessit  
nec locus est usquam Furiis ? huc lumina flecte.  
adspice barbaricis iaceant quot moenia flammis, 360  
quas mihi Rufinus strages quantumque cruoris  
praebeat et quantis epulentur caedibus hydri.  
linque homines sortemque meam, pete sidera ; notis  
Autumni te redde plagis, qua vergit in Austrum  
Signifer ; aestivo sedes vicina Leoni 365  
iam pridem gelidaeque vacant confinia Librae.  
atque utinam per magna sequi convexa liceret ! ”

Diva refert : “ non ulterius bacchabere demens.  
iam poenas tuus iste dabit, iam debitus ultor  
inminet, et, terras qui nunc ipsumque fatigat 370  
aethera, non vili moriens condetur harena.  
iamque aderit laeto promissus Honorius aevo  
nec forti genitore minor nec fratre corusco,  
qui subiget Medos, qui cuspide proteret Indos.  
sub iuga venturi reges ; calcabitur asper 375  
Phasis equo pontemque pati cogetur Araxes,  
tuque simul gravibus ferri religata catenis  
expellere die debellatasque draconum  
tonsa comas imo barathri claudere recessu.  
tum tellus communis erit, tum limite nullo 380

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

calamity, comes upon Justice sad at heart in her palace, and thus provokes her with horrid utterance :  
“ Is this that old reign of peace ; this the return of that golden age thou fondly hopedst had come to pass ? Is our power gone, and no place now left for the Furies ? Turn thine eyes this way. See how many cities the barbarians’ fires have laid low, how vast a slaughter, how much blood Rufinus hath procured for me, and on what widespread death my serpents gorge themselves. Leave thou the world of men ; that lot is mine. Mount to the stars, return to that well-known tract of Autumn sky where the Standard-bearer dips towards the south. The space next to the summer constellation of the Lion, the neighbourhood of the winter Balance has long been empty. And would I could now follow thee through the dome of heaven.”

The goddess made answer : “ Thou shalt rage no further, mad that thou art. Now shalt thy creature receive his due, the destined avenger hangs over him, and he who now wearies land and the very sky shall die, though no handful of dust shall cover his corpse. Soon shall come Honorius, promised of old to this fortunate age, brave as his father Theodosius, brilliant as his brother Arcadius ; he shall subdue the Medes and overthrow the Indians with his spear. Kings shall pass under his yoke, frozen Phasis shall bear his horses’ hooves, and Araxes submit perforce to be bridged by him. Then too shalt thou be bound with heavy chains of iron and cast out from the light of day and imprisoned in the nethermost pit, thy snaky locks overcome and shorn from thy head. Then the world shall be owned by all in common, no field marked off from another

## CLAUDIAN

discernetur ager ; nec vomere sulcus adunco  
findetur : subitis messor gaudebit aristis.  
rorabunt querceta favis ; stagnantia passim  
vina fluent oleique lacus ; nec murice tinctis  
velleribus quaeretur honos, sed sponte rubebunt 385  
attonito pastore greges pontumque per omnem  
ridebunt virides gemmis nascentibus algae."

## THE FIRST BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

by any dividing boundary, no furrow cleft with bended ploughshare ; for the husbandman shall rejoice in corn that springs untended. Oak groves shall drip with honey, streams of wine well up on every side, lakes of oil abound. No price shall be asked for fleeces dyed scarlet, but of themselves shall the flocks grow red to the astonishment of the shepherd, and in every sea the green seaweed will laugh with flashing jewels."

## IN RUFINUM LIBER SECUNDUS

### INCIPIT PRAEFATIO

#### (IV)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Pandite defensum reduces Heliconae sorores,<br>pandite ; permissis iam licet ire choris :<br>nulla per Aonios hostilis bucina campos<br>carmina mugitu deteriore vetat.  |    |
| tu quoque securis pulsa formidine Delphis<br>floribus ultorem, Deliae, cinge tuum.<br>nullus Castalios latices et praescia fati<br>flumina polluto barbarus ore bibit.   | 5  |
| Alpheus late rubuit Siculumque per aequor<br>sanguineas belli rettulit unda notas<br>agnovitque novos absens Arethusa triumphos<br>et Geticam sensit teste cruore necem. | 10 |
| Inmensis, Stilicho, succedant otia curis<br>et nostrae patiens corda remitte lyrae,<br>nec pudeat longos interrupisse labores<br>et tenuem Musis constituuisse moram.    | 15 |
| fertur et indomitus tandem post proelia Mavors<br>lassa per Odrusias fundere membra nives<br>oblatusque sui posita clementior hasta<br>Pieriis aures pacificare modis.   | 20 |

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<sup>1</sup> A reference to Stilicho's campaign against Alaric in the Peloponnese in 397 (see Introduction, p. x).

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

### PREFACE

#### (IV)

Return, ye Muses, and throw open rescued Helicon ; now again may your company gather there. Nowhere now in Italy does the hostile trumpet forbid song with its viler bray. Do thou too, Delian Apollo, now that Delphi is safe and fear has been dispelled, wreath thy avenger's head with flowers. No savage foe sets profane lips to Castalia's spring or those prophetic streams. Alpheus'<sup>1</sup> flood ran all his length red with slaughter and the waves bore the bloody marks of war across the Sicilian sea ; whereby Arethusa, though herself not present, recognized the triumphs freshly won and knew of the slaughter of the Getae, to which that blood bore witness.

Let peace, Stilicho, succeed these age-long labours and ease thine heart by graciously listening to my song. Think it no shame to interrupt thy long toil and to consecrate a few moments to the Muses. Even unwearying Mars is said to have stretched his tired limbs on the snowy Thracian plain when at last the battle was ended, and, unmindful of his wonted fierceness, to have laid aside his spear in gentler mood, soothing his ear with the Muses' melody.

## LIBER II

### (V)

Iam post edomitas Alpes defensa<sup>1</sup>que regna  
Hesperiae merita complexus sede parentem  
auctior adiecto fulgebat sidere mundus,  
iamque tuis, Stilicho, Romana potentia curis  
et rerum commissus apex, tibi credita fratrum 5  
utraque maiestas geminaeque exercitus aulae.  
Rufinus (neque enim patiuntur saeva quietem  
crimina pollutaeque negant arescere fauces)  
infandis iterum terras accendere bellis  
incohat et solito pacem vexare tumultu. 10  
haec etiam secum : “ quam ratione tuebor  
spem vitae fragilem ? qua tot depellere fluctus  
arte queam ? premor hinc odiis, hinc milite cingor.  
heu quid agam ? non arma mihi, non principis ullus  
auxiliatur amor. matura pericula surgunt 15  
undique et impositi radiant cervicibus enses.  
quid restat, nisi cuncta novo confundere luctu  
insontesque meae populos miscere ruinae ?  
verso iuvat orbe mori ; solacia leto

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<sup>1</sup> Theodosius died in January 395, not long after his defeat of Eugenius at the Frigidus River (near Aquileia), September 5-6, 394 (see Introduction, p. ix).

## BOOK II

### (V)

After the subjugation of the Alpine tribes and the salvation of the kingdoms of Italy the heavens welcomed the Emperor Theodosius<sup>1</sup> to the place of honour due to his worth, and so shone the brighter by the addition of another star. Then was the power of Rome entrusted to thy care, Stilicho ; in thy hands was placed the governance of the world. The brothers' twin majesty and the armies of either royal court were given into thy charge. But Rufinus (for cruelty and crime brook not peace, and a tainted mouth will not forgo its draughts of blood), Rufinus, I say, began once more to inflame the world with wicked wars and to disturb peace with accustomed sedition. Thus to himself : " How shall I assure my slender hopes of survival ? By what means beat back the rising storm ? On all sides are hate and the threat of arms. What am I to do ? No help can I find in soldier's weapon or emperor's favour. Instant dangers ring me round and a gleaming sword hangs above my head. What is left but to plunge the world into fresh troubles and draw down innocent peoples in my ruin ? Gladly will I perish if the world does too ; general destruction shall console me for



## CLAUDIAN

exitium commune dabit nec territus ante  
discedam : cum luce simul linquenda potestas.” 20

Haec fatus, ventis veluti si frena resolvat  
Aeolus, abrupto gentes sic obice fudit  
laxavitque viam bellis et, nequa maneret  
inmunis regio, cladem divisit in orbem 25  
disposuitque nefas. alii per terga ferocis  
Danuvii solidata ruunt expertaque remos  
frangunt stagna rotis ; alii per Caspia claustra  
Armeniasque nives inopino tramite ducti  
invadunt Orientis opes. iam pascua fumant 30  
Cappadocum volucrumque parens Argaeus equorum,  
iam rubet altus Halys nec se defendit iniquo  
monte Cilix. Syriae tractus vastantur amoeni  
adsuetumque choris et laeta plebe canorum  
proterit imbellem sonipes hostilis Orontem. 35  
hinc planctus Asiae ; Geticis Europa catervis  
ludibrio praedaeque datur frondentis ad usque  
Dalmatiae fines : omnis quae mobile Ponti  
aequor et Adriacas tellus interiacet undas  
squalet inops pecudum, nullis habitata colonis, 40  
instar anhelantis Libyae, quae torrida semper  
solibus humano nescit mansuescere cultu.  
Thessalus ardet ager ; reticet pastore fugato  
Pelion ; Emathias ignis populatur aristas.  
nam plaga Pannoniae miserandaque moenia Thracum  
arvaeque Mysorum iam nulli flebile damnum, 46  
sed cursus sollemnis erat campusque furori  
expositus, sensumque malis detraxerat usus.  
eheu quam brevibus pereunt ingentia fatis !

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

mine own death, nor will I die (for I am no coward) till I have accomplished this. I will not lay down my power before my life."

So spake he, and as if Aeolus unchained the winds so he, breaking their bonds, let loose the nations, clearing the way for war ; and, that no land should be free therefrom, apportioned ruin throughout the world, parcelling out destruction. Some pour across the frozen surface of swift-flowing Danube and break with the chariot wheel what erstwhile knew but the oar ; others invade the wealthy East, led through the Caspian Gates and over the Armenian snows by a newly-discovered pass. The fields of Cappadocia reek with slaughter ; Argæus, father of swift horses, is laid waste. Halys' deep waters run red and the Cilician cannot defend himself in his precipitous mountains. The pleasant plains of Syria are devastated, and the enemy's cavalry thunders along the banks of Orontes, home hitherto of the dance and of a happy people's song. Hence comes mourning to Asia, while Europe is left to be the sport and prey of Getic hordes even to the borders of fertile Dalmatia. All that tract of land lying between the stormy Euxine and the Adriatic is laid waste and plundered, no inhabitants dwell there ; 'tis like torrid Africa whose sun-scorched plains never grow kindlier through human tillage. Thessaly is afire ; Pelion silent, his shepherds put to flight ; flames bring destruction on Macedonia's crops. For Pannonia's plain, the Thracians' helpless cities, the fields of Mysia were ruined but now none wept ; year by year came the invader, unsheltered was the countryside from havoc and custom had robbed suffering of its sting. Alas, in how swift ruin perish

## CLAUDIAN

imperium tanto quaesitum sanguine, tanto 50  
servatum, quod mille ducum peperere labores,  
quod tantis Romana manus contexuit annis,  
proditor unus iners angusto tempore vertit.

Urbs etiam, magnae quae ducitur aemula Romae  
et Calchedonias contra despectat harenas, 55  
iam non finitimo Martis terrore movetur,  
sed propius lucere faces et rauca sonare  
cornua vibratisque peti fastigia telis  
adspicit. hi vigili muros statione tueri,  
hi iunctis properant portus munire carinis. 60  
obsessa tamen ille ferus laetatur in urbe  
exultatque malis summaeque ex culmine turris  
impia vicini cernit spectacula campi :  
vinctas ire nurus, nunc in vada proxima mergi  
seminecem, hunc subito percussum vulnere labi 65  
dum fugit, hunc animam portis efflare sub ipsis ;  
nec canos prodesse seni puerique cruore  
maternos undare sinus. immensa voluptas  
et risus plerumque subit ; dolor afficit unus,  
quod feriat non ipse manu. videt omnia late 70  
exceptis incensa suis et crimine tanto  
luxuriat carumque sibi non abnuat hostem ;  
iactabatque ultro, quod soli castra paterent  
sermonumque foret vicibus permissa potestas.  
egregii quotiens exisset foederis auctor, 75  
stipatur sociis, circumque armata clientum

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<sup>1</sup> Constantinople.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

even the greatest things ! An empire won and kept at the expense of so much bloodshed, born from the toils of countless leaders, knit together through so many years by Roman hands, one coward traitor overthrew in the twinkling of an eye.

That city,<sup>1</sup> too, called of men the rival of great Rome, that looks across to Chalcedon's strand, is stricken now with terror at no neighbouring war ; nearer home it observes the flash of torches, the trumpet's call, and its own roofs the target for an enemy's artillery. Some guard the walls with watchful outposts, others hasten to fortify the harbour with a chain of ships. But fierce Rufinus is full of joy in the leaguered city and exults in its misfortunes, gazing at the awful spectacle of the surrounding country from the summit of a lofty tower. He watches the procession of women in chains, sees one poor half-dead wretch drowned in the water hard by, another, stricken as he fled, sink down beneath the sudden wound, another breathe out his life at the tower's very gates ; he rejoices that no respect is shown to grey hairs and that mother's breasts are drenched with their children's blood. Great is his pleasure thereat ; from time to time he laughs and knows but one regret—that it is not his own hand that strikes. He sees the whole countryside (except for his own lands) ablaze, and has joy of his great wickedness, making no secret of the fact that the city's foes are his friends. It is his boast, moreover, that to him alone the enemy camp opened its gates, and that there was allowed right of parley between them. Whene'er he issued forth to arrange some wondrous truce his companions thronged him round and an armed band of depen-

## CLAUDIAN

agmina privatis ibant famulantia signis ;  
 ipse inter medios, ne qua de parte relinquat  
 barbariem, revocat fulvas in pectora pelles  
 frenaque et inmanes pharetras arcusque sonoros 80  
 adsimulat mentemque palam proclamat amictu,  
 nec pudet Ausonios currus et iura regentem  
 sumere deformes ritus vestemque Getarum ;  
 insignemque habitum Latii mutare coactae  
 maerent captivae pellito iudice leges. 85

Quis populi tum vultus erat ! quae murmura furtim !  
 (nam miseris ne flere quidem aut lenire dolorem  
 colloquiis impune licet) : “ quonam usque feremus  
 exitiale iugum ? durae quis terminus umquam  
 sortis erit ? quis nos funesto turbine rerum 90  
 aut tantis solvet lacrimis, quos barbarus illinc,  
 hinc Rufinus agit, quibus arva fretumque negatur ?  
 magna quidem per rura lues, sed maior oberrat  
 intra tecta timor. tandem succurre ruenti  
 heu patriae, Stilicho ! dilecta hic pignora certe, 95  
 hic domus, hic thalamis primum genialibus omen,  
 hic tibi felices erexit regia taedas.  
 vel solus sperate veni. te proelia viso  
 languescent avidique cadet dementia monstri.”

Talibus urgetur discors Aurora procellis. 100  
 at Stilicho, Zephyris cum primum bruma remitti  
 et iuga diffusis nudari coepta pruinis,  
 partibus Italiae tuta sub pace relictis  
 utraque castra movens Phoebi properabat ad ortus,  
 64

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

dents danced attendance on a civilian's standards. Rufinus himself in their midst drapes tawny skins of beasts about his breast (thorough in his barbarity), and uses harness and huge quivers and twanging bows like those of the Getae—his dress openly showing the temper of his mind. One who drives a consul's chariot and enjoys a consul's powers has no shame to adopt the manners and dress of barbarians ; Roman law, obliged to change her noble garment, mourns her slavery to a skin-clad judge.

What looks then on men's faces ! What furtive murmurs ! For, poor wretches, they could not even weep nor, without risk, ease their grief in converse. "How long shall we bear this deadly yoke ? What end shall there ever be to our hard lot ? Who will free us from this death-fraught anarchy, this day of tears ? On this side the barbarian hems us in, on that Rufinus oppresses us ; land and sea are alike denied us. A pestilence stalks through the country : yes, but a deadlier terror haunts our houses. Stilicho, delay no more but succour thy dying land ; of a truth here are thy children, here thy home, here were taken those first auspices for thy marriage, so blessed with children, here the palace was illumined with the torches of happy wedlock. Nay, come even though alone, thou for whom we long ; wars will perish at thy sight and the ravening monster's rage subside."

Such were the tempests that vexed the turbulent East. But so soon as ever winter had given place to the winds of spring and the hills began to lose their covering of snow, Stilicho, leaving the fields of Italy in peace and safety, set in motion his two armies and hastened to the lands of the sunrise, combining

## CLAUDIAN

Gallica discretis Eoaque robora turmis 105  
 amplexus. numquam tantae dicione sub una  
 convenere manus nec tot discrimina vocum :  
 illinc Armeniae vibratis crinibus alae  
 herbida collectae facili velamina nodo ;  
 inde truces flavo comitantur vertice Galli, 110  
 quos Rhodanus velox, Araris quos tardior ambit  
 et quos nascentes explorat gurgite Rhenus  
 quosque rigat retro perniciosior unda Garunnae,  
 Oceani pleno quotiens impellitur aestu.  
 mens eadem cunctis animique recentia ponunt 115  
 vulnera ; non odit victus victorve superbit.  
 et quamvis praesens tumor et civilia nuper  
 classica bellatrixque etiamnunc ira caleret,  
 in ducis eximii conspiravere favorem.  
 haud aliter Xerxen toto simul orbe secutus 120  
 narratur rapuisse vagos exercitus amnes  
 et telis umbrasse diem, cum classibus iret  
 per scopulos tectumque pedes contemneret aequor.  
 Vix Alpes egressus erat nec iam amplius errat  
 barbarus adventumque timens se cogit in unam 125  
 planitiem tutoque includit pascua gyro :  
 tum duplici fossa non exuperabile vallum  
 asperat alternis sudibus murique locata  
 in speciem caesis obtendit plaustra iuvcns.  
 At procul exanguis Rufinum perculit horror ; 130  
 infectae pallore genae ; stetit ore gelato  
 incertus peteretne fugam, veniamne subactus

66

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

the so different squadrons of Gaul and of the East. Never before did there meet together under one command such numerous bands, never in one army such a babel of tongues. Here were curly-haired Armenian cavalry, their green cloaks fastened with a loose knot, fierce Gauls with golden locks accompanied them, some from the banks of the swift-flowing Rhone, or the more sluggish Saône, some whose infant bodies Rhine's flood had laved, or who had been washed by the waves of the Garonne that flow more rapidly towards, than from, their source, whenever they are driven back by Ocean's full tide. One common purpose inspires them all ; grudges lately harboured are laid aside ; the vanquished feels no hate, the victor shows no pride. And despite of present unrest, of the trumpet's late challenge to civil strife, and of warlike rage still aglow, yet were all at one in their support of their great leader. So it is said that the army that followed Xerxes, gathered into one from all quarters of the world, drank up whole rivers in their courses, obscured the sun with the rain of their arrows, passed through mountains on board ship, and walked the bridged sea with contemptuous foot.

Scarce had Stilicho crossed the Alps when the barbarian hordes began to restrict their forays and for fear of his approach gathered together in the plain and enclosed their pasture-lands within a defensive ring. They then built an impregnable fortification with a double moat, planted stakes two deep at intervals along its summit and set wagons rigged with ox-hide all round like a wall.

Panic fear seized upon Rufinus as he saw this from afar, and his cheeks grew pale. He stood with ice-cold face, not knowing whether to fly, to own himself



## CLAUDIAN

posceret an fidos sese transferret in hostes.  
 quid nunc divitiae, quid fulvi vasta metalli  
 congeries, quid purpureis effulta columnis 135  
 atria prolataeve iuvant ad sidera moles ?  
 audit iter numeratque dies spatioque viarum  
 metitur vitam. torquetur pace futura  
 nec recipit somnos et saepe cubilibus amens  
 excutitur poenamque luit formidine poenae. 140  
 sed redit in rabiem scelerumque inmane resumit  
 ingenium sacrasque fores praedivitis aulae  
 intrat et Arcadium mixto terrore precatur :  
 “ Per fratris regale iubar, per facta parentis  
 aetherii floremque tui te deprecor aevi, 145  
 eripe me gladiis ; liceat Stilichonis iniquas  
 evitare minas. in nostram Gallia caedem  
 coniurata venit. quidquid rigat ultima Tethys,  
 extremos ultra volitat gens si qua Britannos,  
 mota mihi. tantis capiendi credimur armis ? 150  
 tot signis unum petitur caput ? unde cruoris  
 ista sitis ? geminum caeli sibi vindicat axem  
 et nullum vult esse parem. succumbere poscit  
 cuncta sibi : regit Italiam Libyamque coercet ;  
 Hispanis Gallisque iubet ; non orbita solis, 155  
 non illum natura capit. quascumque paravit  
 hic Augustus opes et quas post bella recepit,  
 solus habet, possessa semel nec reddere curat.  
 scilicet ille quidem tranquilla pace fruatur ;  
 nos premat obsidio ? quid partem invadere temptat ?  
 deserat Illyricos fines ; Eoa remittat 161

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

beaten and sue for mercy, or go over to an enemy whose good faith his treachery had assured. Of what use now were his riches, his vast stores of golden ore, his halls upheld with red marble pillars, his sky-towering palace? He hears of Stilicho's march and counts the days, measuring his term of life according to the distance of his enemy from him. He is troubled with thoughts of coming peace and cannot sleep, often starts up distraught from his bed and suffers as punishment the fear of punishment. But his fury repossesses him and, regaining his genius for crime, he enters the sacred portal of the rich palace and addresses Arcadius with prayers and threats: "By thy brother's royal star, by the deeds of thy divine sire and the flower of thine own age, I beg thee deliver me from the edge of the sword; let me escape the cruel threatenings of Stilicho. All Gaul is sworn to my destruction. Tethys' extreme coasts, the wandering tribes beyond the farthest Britons are stirred up against me. Am I thought fit prey for all those armies? Are so many standards advanced against a solitary man? Whence comes this lust for blood? Stilicho lays claim to either hemisphere and will brook no equal. The world forsooth must lie at his feet. Italy is his kingdom, Libya his dominion, Spain and Gaul his empire. The sun's path circumscribes him not, no nor the whole universe. All the wealth collected here by Theodosius or received by him after the war is Stilicho's alone, and he has small mind to restore what he has once acquired. Is he to enjoy his gains in peace and quietness while 'tis mine to stand a siege? Why should he encroach on thy share? Let him leave Illyria, send back his Eastern troops, divide the

## CLAUDIAN

agmina ; fraternas ex aequo dividat hastas,  
 nec sceptri tantum fueris, sed militis heres.  
 quodsi dissimulas nostrae succurrere morti  
 nec prohibere paras, Manes et sidera testor : 165  
 haec cervix non sola cadet ; miscebitur alter  
 sanguis ; nec Stygias ferar incomitatus ad undas  
 nec mea securus ridebit funera victor ! ”

Haec ubi, dictatur facinus missusque repente  
 qui ferat extortas invito principe voces. 170

Interea Stilicho iam laetior hoste propinquo  
 nec multo spatii distantibus aequore vallis  
 pugnandi cupidas accendit voce cohortes.  
 Armeniis frons laeva datur ; per cornua Gallos  
 dexteriores locat. spumis ignescere frena, 175  
 pulveris extolli nimbos lateque videres  
 surgere purpureis undantes anguibas hastas  
 serpentumque vago caelum saevire volatu.  
 implet Thessaliam ferri nitor antraque docti  
 cornipedis, teneroque amnis reptatus Achilli 180  
 et nemus Oetaeum radiat. clamore nivalis  
 Ossa tonat pulsoque fragor geminatur Olympo.  
 intumuit virtus et lucis prodigus arsit  
 impetus ; haud illos rupes, haud alta vetarent  
 flumina : praecipiti stravissent omnia cursu. 185

Si tunc his animis acies collata fuisset,  
 prodita non tantas vidisset Graecia caedes,  
 oppida semoto Pelopeia Marte vigerent,

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

hosts fairly between the two brothers, and do thou not be heir to the sceptre only but to thy forces. But if thou neglect to come to mine aid and make not ready to prevent my death, this head of mine shall not fall alone—by the dead and the stars I swear it. The blood of another shall be mingled with mine. I will not go unaccompanied to the waters of Styx nor shall the victor be free to exult in my death.”

So saying he dictates a treasonable letter and sends therewith an emissary to bear the message extorted from the emperor's unwilling lips.

Meanwhile Stilicho, exulting in the thought of advancing upon the foe and of the narrow stretch of country that separated him from the fortifications, inflames with his words the hearts of his troops already thirsting for battle. On the left wing are posted the Armenians, farther to the right the Gauls. A beholder might have seen bits covered with warm foam, clouds of dust uprising, and on all sides waving banners bearing the device of a scarlet dragon; the very air seemed to teem with these fierce flying monsters. The glint of steel fills all Thessaly and the cave of the wise Centaur; the river whose banks supported Achilles' baby footsteps and the forests of Oeta are agleam with arms, snowy Ossa re-echoes to the sound and Olympus smitten therewith sends it back twofold. Hearts beat high with a courage that is lavish of life. Neither precipice nor deep river could check their advance: their headlong speed would have overthrown all barriers.

If the two armies had then joined battle in this temper ruined Greece would not have witnessed such disaster as she did, the cities of the Peloponnese would still have been flourishing untouched by the hand

## CLAUDIAN

starent Arcadiae, starent Lacedaemonis arces ;  
 non mare fumasset geminum flagrante Corintho 190  
 nec fera Cecropiae traxissent vincula matres.  
 illa dies potuit nostris imponere finem  
 cladibus et sceleris causas auferre futuri.  
 invida pro quantum rapuit Fortuna triumphum !  
 inter equos interque tubas mandata feruntur 195  
 regia et armati veniunt ductoris ad aures.

Obstupuit ; simul ira virum, simul obruit ingens  
 maeror et ignavo tantum licuisse nocenti  
 miratur. dubios anceps sententia volvit  
 eventus : peragat pugnas an fortia coepta 200  
 deserat ? Illyricis ardet succurrere damnis ;  
 praeceptis obstare timet. reverentia frangit  
 virtutis stimulos : hinc publica commoda suadent,  
 hinc metus invidiae. tandem indignatus ad astra  
 extollit palmas et ab imo pectore fatur : 205

“ Numina Romanis necdum satiata ruinis,  
 si iuvat imperium penitus de stirpe revelli,  
 uno si placuit deleri saecula lapsu,  
 si piget humani generis, prorumpat in arva  
 libertas effrena maris vel limite iusto 210  
 devius errantes Phaëthon confundat habenas.  
 cur per Rufinum geritur ? procumbere mundum  
 hoc auctore pudet. mediis revocamur ab armis  
 (pro dolor !) et strictos deponere cogimur enses.  
 vos, arsuræ urbes perituraque moenia, testor : 215  
 cedo equidem et miserum permitto casibus orbem.  
 flectite signa, duces. redeat iam miles Eous.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

of war, Arcadia and Sparta's citadel would have remained unravaged. Burning Corinth would not have heated the waves of her two seas, nor would cruel chains have led in captivity the matrons of Athens. That day might have set an end to our disasters and destroyed the seeds of future calamities. For shame, envious Fortune, of what a triumph didst thou rob us ! The kingly mandate came to Stilicho in arms amid the cavalry and the trumpets' din.

He stood amazed ; anger and great grief o'erwhelm the hero and he wonders that such power for ill is allowed a coward. His wavering mind ponders the uncertain issue : shall he continue his advance or fail his brave beginnings ? He longs to stem Illyria's ruin but fears to disobey orders. Loyalty annuls the prickings-on of valour. The public good urges him one way, fear of the emperor's displeasure another. At length in his distress he raises his hands to heaven and speaks from deep within his heart : " Ye gods not yet glutted with Rome's destruction, if ye will that our empire be utterly uprooted, if ye have resolved to blot out all the centuries with one blow, if ye repent you of the race of man, then let the sea's unrestrained fury burst forth upon the land or let Phaëthon, deviating from his ordained course, drive his straying chariot at random. Shall Rufinus be your tool ? 'Twere shame that such an one should be the author of the world's destruction. O the grief of it ! recalled in mid fight ; forced to lay down the swords we have drawn ! Cities marked out for the flames, walls doomed to destruction, I call you to witness : see, I retire ; I leave the unhappy world to its fate. Turn your banners, captains ; to your homes, soldiers of the east. Needs must we obey.

## CLAUDIAN

parendum est. taceant litui. prohibete sagittas.  
parcite contiguo—Rufinus praecipit !—hosti.”

His dictis omnes una fremuere manipuli 220  
quantum non Italo percussa Ceraunia fluctu,  
quantum non madidis elisa tonitrua Cauris,  
secernique negant ereptaque proelia poscunt,  
insignemque ducem populus defendit uterque  
et sibi quisque trahit. magno certatur amore, 225  
alternamque fidem non inlaudata lacessit  
seditio talique simul clamore queruntur :

“ Quis mihi nudatos enses, quis tela lacertis  
excutit et solvi curvatos imperat arcus ?  
quisnam audet stricto leges imponere ferro ? 230  
inflammata semel nescit mitescere virtus.  
iam mihi barbaricos sitientia pila cruores  
sponte volant ultroque manus mucrone furenti  
ducitur et siccum gladium vagina recusat.  
non patiar. semperne Getis discordia nostra 235  
proderit ? en iterum belli civilis imago !  
quid consanguineas acies, quid dividis olim  
concordes aquilas ? non dissociabile corpus  
coniunctumque sumus. te qua libet ire sequemur.  
te vel Hyperboreo damnatam sidere Thylen, 240  
te vel ad incensas Libyae comitabor harenas.  
Indorum si stagna petas Rubrique recessus  
litoris, auriferum veniam poturus Hydaspen ;  
si calcare Notum secretaque noscere Nili  
nascentis iubeas, mundum post terga relinquam ; 245

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

Silence, ye clarions ; men, forbear to shoot. The foe is at hand, spare him ; 'tis Rufinus' command."

At these words an unanimous roar went up from all the companies. With less din are the cliffs of Ceraunia buffeted by the Italian sea or the thunders evoked from the western winds' wet storm-clouds. They will not separate, and demand the battle of which they have been defrauded. East and west claim the leadership of that illustrious chief. It is a contest of affection ; insubordination that none can blame threatens to sap the loyalty of both armies who thus utter their common complaint : "Who is it robs us of our drawn swords ? Who strikes the lance from our hand and bids us unstring the bent bow ? Who dares dictate to an army under arms ? Valour once roused knows no abatement. Spears thirsting for barbarian blood cast themselves from out our hands ; our headlong blades force our vengeful arms to follow them ; our very scabbards refuse to sheath an unblooded sword. I will not bear it. Shall the Getae ever profit by our dissension ? Behold once more the shadow of civil war. Why dost thou seek to separate armies whose blood is one, standards of immemorial alliance ? We are a body one and indivisible. Thee will we follow whithersoever thou goest ; thee will we accompany even as far as Thule lying icebound beneath the pole-star, or to the burning sands of Libya. Should thy path be by the waters of Ind, or the bays of the Red Sea,<sup>1</sup> I would go drink Hydaspes' golden stream. Shouldst thou bid me fare south and search out the hidden sources of the stripling Nile, I would leave behind me the world

<sup>1</sup> By the *mare rubrum* the ancients meant the Indian Ocean. The Hydaspes is the modern Jhylum.



**CLAUDIAN**

et quocumque loco Stilicho tentoria figat,  
haec patria est."

Dux inde vetat : “ desistite, quaeso.  
atque avidam differte manum. cadat iste minacis  
invidiae cumulus. non est victoria tanti,  
ut videar vicisse mihi. vos fida iuventus 250  
ite, mei quondam socii.” nec plura locutus  
flexit iter : vacuo qualis discedit hiatu  
impatiens remeare leo, quem plurima cuspis  
et pastorales pepulerunt igne catervae,  
inclinatque iubas demissaque lumina velat 255  
et trepidas maesto rimatur murmure silvas.

Ut sese legio vidit disiuncta relinqui,  
ingentem tollit gemitum galeasque solutis  
umectat lacrimis pressamque morantia vocem  
thoracum validos pulsant suspiria nexus : 260  
“tradimur, heu, tantumque sequi prohibemur  
amorem !”

**exclamant.** “**spernisne tuas, dux optime, dexteras,**  
**quas tibi victrices totiens Bellona probavit ?**  
**nos adeo viles ?    adeo felicior axis**  
**Hesperius, meruit qui te rectore teneri ?** **265**  
**quid nobis patriam, quid cara revisere tandem**  
**pignora dilectosve iuvat coluisse penates ?**  
**te sine dulce nihil.   iam formidata tyranni**  
**tempestas subeunda mihi, qui forte nefandas**  
**iam parat insidias, qui nos aut turpibus Hunis** **270**  
**aut impacatis famulos praebebit Alanis ;**  
**quamquam non adeo robur defecerit omne**  
**tantave gestandi fuerit penuria ferri.**  
**tu, licet occiduo maneat sub cardine caeli,**

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

I know. Wheresoever Stilicho plants his tent there is my fatherland."

But Stilicho said them nay : " Cease, I beg you," he cried, " stay your eager hands. Suffer to disperse the mountain of hatred that towers over me. I hold not victory so dear that I would fain seem to win it for myself. Loyal gentlemen, so long my fellow-soldiers, get you gone." He said no more but turned away, as a lion loath to retire makes off with empty maw when the serried spears and the burning branches in the hands of the shepherd band drive him back and he droops his mane and closes his downcast eyes and with a disappointed roar pushes his way through the trembling forest.

When the armies saw that they had been parted and left, they groaned deeply and bedewed their helmets with a stream of tears. The sighs that refused egress to their smothered words shook the strong fastenings of their breastplates. " We are betrayed," they cried, " and forbidden to follow him we love so well. Dost thou despise, matchless chief, thine own right hands which have so often won thee the victory ? Are we thus vile ? Is the Western sky to be the happier which has won the right to enjoy thy rule ? What boots it to return to our country, to see once more our children dear after so long an absence, to live again in the home we love ? Without thee is no joy. Now must I face the tyrant's dread wrath ; mayhap e'en now he is making ready against me some wicked snare and will make me a slave to the foul Huns or restless Alans. Yet is not my strength altogether perished nor so complete my powerlessness to wield the sword. Rest thou beneath the sun's westering course, Stilicho, thou art still

## CLAUDIAN

tu mihi dux semper, Stilicho, nostramque vel absens  
experiere fidem. dabitur tibi debita pridem 276  
victima : promissis longe placabere sacris."

Tristior Haemoniis miles digressus ab oris  
tangebatur Macetum fines murosque subibat,  
Thessalonica, tuos. sensu dolor haeret in alto 280  
abditus et tacitas vindictae praestruit iras,  
spectaturque favens odiis locus aptaque leto  
tempora. nec quisquam tanta de pube repertus,  
proderet incautis qui corda minantia verbis.  
quae non posteritas, quae non mirabitur aetas 285  
tanti consilium vulgi potuisse taceri  
aut facinus tam grande tegi mentisque calorem  
non sermone viae, non inter pocula rumpi ?  
aequalis tantam tenuit constantia turbam  
et fuit arcanum populo. percurritur Haemus, 290  
deseritur Rhodope Thracumque per ardua tendunt,  
donec ad Herculei perventum nominis urbem.

Ut cessisse ducem, propius venisse cohortes  
cognita Rufino, magna cervice triumphat  
omnia tuta ratus sceptrumque capessere fervet 295  
et coniuratos hortatur voce clientes :  
" vicimus, expulimus, facilis iam copia regni.  
nullus ab hoste timor. quis enim, quem poscere solum  
horruit, hunc tanto munitum milite vincat ?  
quis ferat armatum, quem non superavit inermem ?  
i nunc, exitium nobis meditare remotus 301

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<sup>1</sup> Probably Heraclea, at the west end of the Propontis.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

ever our general, and though we be not together thou shalt still know our loyalty. Long has a victim been owed thee ; he shall be sacrificed and thou placated by an immolation promised of old."

Sad at heart the army left Thessaly, reached the borders of Macedon, and arrived before the walls of Thessalonica. Indignation deep hid in their hearts prepares the silent wrath of revenge. They look for a place where they may wreak their vengeance and a moment propitious for the blow, and of all that vast army not one is found to divulge with incautious speech his heart's intent. What succeeding age and time but will marvel that a plot so widespread could be kept hid, a deed of such vast import concealed ; that the ardour of their minds was not rendered of no avail by the chance word of a soldier on the march or a drunkard's babbling ? But discretion ruled all alike and the people's secret was kept. The army crossed the Hebrus, left Rhodope behind, and struck across the uplands of Thrace until it came to the city called after Hercules.<sup>1</sup>

When Rufinus learned that Stilicho had retired and that his troops were approaching he held his head high in triumph, believing everything safe, and, anxious to seize the power, inflamed his traitorous minions with this speech : "We have conquered ; have driven off our enemy ; empire is within my grasp, nor have we anything to fear from the foe. Will one who dared not approach me when I stood alone defeat me now that I am strengthened by the addition of so great a force ? Who could stand against him armed whom unarmed he could not conquer ? Plot my destruction in exile, friend

## CLAUDIAN

incassum, Stilicho, dum nos longissima tellus  
 dividat et mediis Nereus interstrepit undis.  
 Alpinas transire tibi me sospite rupes  
 haud dabitur. iaculis illinc me figere tempta. 305  
 quaere ferox ensem, qui nostra ad moenia tendi  
 possit ab Italia. non te documenta priorum,  
 non exempla vetant? quisnam conatus adire  
 has iactat vitasse manus? detrusimus orbe  
 te medio tantisque simul spoliavimus armis. 310  
 nunc epulis tempus, socii, nunc larga parare  
 munera donandumque novis legionibus aurum!  
 opportuna meis oritur lux crastina votis.  
 quod nolit rex ipse velit iubeatque coactus  
 in partem mihi regna dari. contingat in uno 315  
 privati fugisse modum crimenque tyranni."

Talibus adclamat dictis infame nocentum  
 concilium, qui perpetuis crevere rapinis  
 et quos una facit Rufino causa sodales,  
 illicitum duxisse nihil; funesta tacere 320  
 nexus amicitiae. iamiam conubia laeti  
 despondent aliena sibi frustra que vicissim  
 promittunt, quae quisque petat, quas devoret urbes.

Coeperat humanos alto sopire labores  
 nox gremio, nigrasque sopor diffuderat alas. 325  
 ille diu curis animum stimulantibus aegre  
 labitur in somnos. toto vix corde quierat,  
 ecce videt diras adludere protinus umbras,  
 80

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

Stilicho. What harm can that do so long as a vast stretch of country divide us and Nereus' waves thunder between? Thou shalt have no chance of crossing the rocky Alps while I live. Transfix me from thence with thine arrows, if thou canst. Seek in thy fury a sword that from Italy shall reach my city's walls. Does not the experience and the example of those who have tried before deter thee? Who that has dared approach can boast escape from my hands? I have driven thee from the centre of the civilized world and at the same time deprived thee of thy great army. Now, my friends, is come the time for feasting and making ready bountiful gifts and bestowing gold upon these new legions. To-morrow's light dawns prosperously for my purpose. Needs must the emperor will what he would not and bid a portion of his empire to be given to me. Mine alone be the happy fortune to rise above a private estate and yet escape the charge of tyranny."

To such words they shout acclaim—that vile band of traitors, waxed fat on plunder, whom one principle makes fellows with Rufinus, the holding nothing unlawful, and whose bond of friendship is to guard guilt in silence. Straightway they joyfully promise themselves foreign wives and all to no purpose forecast the booty they will win and the cities they will sack.

Night had begun to soothe human toils in her deep bosom and sleep had spread his black wings when Rufinus, whose mind had long been a prey to anxiety, sank into a troubled slumber. Scarce had quiet fastened on his heart when, lo, he sees flit before his eyes the dread ghosts of those whom he

## CLAUDIAN

quas dedit ipse neci ; quarum quae clarior una  
 visa loqui : “ pro ! surge toro. quid plurima volvis 330  
 anxius ? haec requiem rebus finemque labori  
 adlatura dies : omni iam plebe redibis  
 altior et laeti manibus portabere vulgi.”  
 has canit ambages. occulto fallitur ille  
 omine nec capitis sentit praesagia fixi. 335

Iam summum radiis stringebat Lucifer Haemum  
 festinamque rotam solito properantior urget  
 tandem Rufini visurus funera Titan :  
 desiluit stratis densaeque capacia turbae  
 atria regifico iussit splendere paratu 340  
 exceptura dapes et, quod post vota daretur,  
 insculpi propriis aurum fatale figuris.  
 ipse salutatum reduces post proelia turmas  
 iam regale tumens et principe celsior ibat  
 collaque femineo solvebat mollia gestu 345  
 imperii certus, tegeret ceu purpura dudum  
 corpus et ardentes ambirent tempora gemmae.

Urbis ab angusto tractu, qua vergit in austrum,  
 planities vicina patet : nam cetera pontus  
 circuit exiguo dirimi se limite passus. 350  
 hic ultrix acies ornatu lucida Martis  
 explicuit cuneos. pedites in parte sinistra  
 consistunt. equites illinc poscentia cursum  
 ora reluctantur pressis sedare lupatis ;  
 hinc alii saevum cristato vertice nutant 355  
 et tremulos umeris gaudent vibrare colores,  
 quos operit formatque chalybs ; coniuncta per artem

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

had killed. Of them one, more distinct than the rest, seemed thus to address him : " Up from thy couch ! why schemes thine anxious mind further ? This coming day shall bring thee rest and end thy toils. High above the people shalt thou be raised, and happy crowds shall carry thee in their arms." Such was the ambiguous prophecy of the ghost, but Rufinus observed not the hidden omen and saw not it foretold the elevation of his severed head upon a spear.

Now Lucifer touched the peak of Haemus with his rays and Titan urged his hastening wheel quicker than his wont, so soon to see at last the death of Rufinus. Rufinus himself leapt from his bed and bade make ready the capacious palace with regal splendour in preparation for the feast ; the gold to be given in largesse he ordered to be stamped with his own fateful image. Himself went to welcome the troops returning from the battle in kingly pride and arrogance above a prince's. Sure now of empire he wore a woman's raiment about his neck ; as though the purple already clothed his limbs and the jewelled crown blazed upon his brow.

Hard by a crowded quarter of the city of Constantinople, towards the south, there lies a plain. The rest is surrounded by the sea which here allows itself to be parted by a narrow way. Here the avenging army, bright with the panoply of the war god, disposes its squadrons. On the left stands the infantry. Over against them the cavalry seek to restrain their eager steeds by holding tight the reins. Here nod the savage waving plumes whose wearers rejoice to shake the flashing colours of their shoulder-armour ; for steel clothes them on and gives them their shape ; the limbs within



## CLAUDIAN

flexilis inductis animatur lamina membris ;  
 horribiles visu : credas simulacra moveri  
 ferrea cognatoque viros spirare metallo. 360  
 par vestitus equis : ferrata fronte minantur  
 ferratosque levant securi vulneris armos.  
 diviso stat quisque loco, metuenda voluptas  
 cernenti pulcherque timor, spirisque remissis  
 mansuescunt varii vento cessante dracones. 365  
 Augustus veneranda prior vexilla salutat.  
 Rufinus sequitur, quo fallere cuncta solebat  
 callidus adfatu, devotaque brachia laudat ;  
 nomine quemque vocat ; natos patresque reversis  
 nuntiat incolumes. illi dum plurima ficto 370  
 certatim sermone petunt, extendere longos  
 a tergo flexus insperatoque suprema  
 circuitu sociare parant ; decrescere campus  
 incipit, et clipeis in se redeuntia iunctis  
 curvo paulatim sinuantur cornua ductu : 375  
 sic ligat inmensa virides indagine saltus  
 venator ; sic attonitos ad litora pisces  
 aequoreus populator agit rarosque plagarum  
 contrahit anfractus et hiantes colligit oras.  
 excludunt alios. cingi se fervidus ille 380  
 nescit adhuc graviterque adpressa veste morantem  
 increpat Augustum : scandat sublime tribunal,  
 participem sceptri, socium declaret honoris—  
 cum subito stringunt gladios ; vox desuper ingens  
 infremuit : “ nobis etiam, deterrime, nobis 385

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian refers to the devices emblazoned upon the banners.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

give life to the armour's pliant scales so artfully conjoined, and strike terror into the beholder. 'Tis as though iron statues moved and men lived cast from that same metal. The horses are armed in the same way; their heads are encased in threatening iron, their forequarters move beneath steel plates protecting them from wounds; each stands alone, a pleasure yet a dread to behold, beautiful, yet terrible, and as the wind drops the parti-coloured dragons<sup>1</sup> sink with relaxing coils into repose.

The emperor first salutes the hallowed standards; Rufinus follows him, speaking with that crafty voice wherewith he deceived all, praising their devoted arms and addressing each by name. He tells those who have returned that their sons and fathers are still alive. The soldiers, observing a feigned rivalry in asking questions, begin to extend their long lines behind his back and to join up the ends so as to form a circle unnoticed by Rufinus. The space in the centre grows smaller and the wings meeting with serried shields gradually form into one lessening circle. Even so the huntsman surrounds the grassy glades with his widespread snares: so the spoiler of the ocean drives to land the frightened fish, narrowing the circuit of his nets and closing up all possible ways of egress. All others they exclude. In his eagerness he notes not yet that he is being surrounded and, strongly seizing his robe, chides the hesitating emperor: let him mount the lofty platform and declare him sharer in his sceptre, partaker in his dignities—when suddenly they draw their swords and above the rest there rang out a mighty voice: "Basest of the base, didst

## CLAUDIAN

sperasti famulas imponere posse catenas ?  
unde redi nescis ? patiarne audire satellites,  
qui leges aliis libertatemque reduxi ?  
bis domitum civile nefas, bis rupimus Alpes.  
tot nos bella docent nulli servire tyranno.” 390

Deriguit. spes nulla fugae ; seges undique ferri  
circumfusa micat ; dextra laevaue revinctus  
haesit et ensiferae stupuit mucrone coronae,  
ut fera, quae nuper montes amisit avitos  
altorumque exul nemorum damnatur harenae 395  
muneribus, commota ruit ; vir murmure contra  
hortatur nixusque genu venabula tendit ;  
illa pavet strepitus cuneosque erecta theatri  
respicit et tanti miratur sibila vulgi.

Unus per medios audendi pronior ense 400  
prosilit exerto dictisque et vulnere torvus  
impetit : “ hac Stilicho, quem iactas pellere, dextra  
te ferit ; hoc absens invadit viscera ferro.”  
sic fatur meritoque latus transverberat ictu.

Felix illa manus, talem quae prima cruorem 405  
hauserit et fessi poenam libaverit orbis !  
mox omnes laniant hastis artusque trementes  
dilacerant ; uno tot corpore tela tepescunt  
et non infecto puduit mucrone reverti.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

thou hope to cast upon *us* the yoke of slavery? Knowest thou not whence I return? Shall I allow myself to be called another's servant, I who gave laws to others and restored the reign of liberty? Two civil wars have I quenched, twice forced the barrier of the Alps. These many battles have taught me to serve no tyrant."

Rufinus stood rooted to earth. There is no hope of escape, for a forest of flashing spears hems him in. Shut in on the right hand and on the left he stood and gazed in wonder on the drawn blades of the armed throng; as a beast who has lately left his native hills, driven in exile from the wooded mountains and condemned to the gladiatorial shows, rushes into the arena while over against him the gladiator, heartened by the crowd's applause, kneels and holds out his spear. The beast, alarmed at the noise, gazes with head erect upon the rows of seats in the amphitheatre and hears with amazement the murmuring of the crowd.

Then one more daring than the rest drew his sword and leapt forward from the crowd and with fierce words and flashing eye rushed upon Rufinus crying: "It is the hand of Stilicho whom thou vauntest that thou didst expel that smites thee; his sword, which thou thoughtest far away, that pierces thy heart." So spake he and transfixed Rufinus' side with a well-deserved thrust.

Happy the hand that first spilt such vile blood and poured out vengeance for a world made weary. Straightway all pierce him with their spears and tear quivering limb from limb; one single body warms all these weapons with its blood; shame to him whose sword returns unstained therewith.

## CLAUDIAN

hi vultus avidos et adhuc spirantia vellunt                    410  
 lumina, truncatos alii rapuere lacertos.  
 amputat ille pedes, umerum quatit ille solutis  
 nexibus ; hic fracti reserat curvamina dorsi ;  
 hic iecur, hic cordis fibras, hic pandit anhelas  
 pulmonis latebras.    spatium non invenit ira                    415  
 nec locus est odiis.    consumpto funere vix tum  
 deseritur sparsumque perit per tela cadaver.  
 sic mons Aonius rubuit, cum Penthea ferrent  
 Maenades aut subito mutatum Actaeona cornu  
 traderet insanis Latonia visa Molossis.                    420  
 criminibusne tuis credis, Fortuna, mederi  
 et male donatum certas aequare favorem  
 suppliciis ?    una tot milia morte rependis ?  
 eversis agedum Rufinum divide terris.  
 da caput Odrysiis, truncum mereantur Achivi.                    425  
 quid reliquis dabitur ? nec singula membra peremptis  
 sufficiunt populis.

Vacuo plebs undique muro

iam segura fluit ; senibus non obstitit aetas  
 virginibusve pudor ; viduae, quibus ille maritos  
 abstulit, orbataeque ruunt ad gaudia matres                    430  
 insultantque alacres.    laceros iuvat ire per artus  
 pressaque calcato vestigia sanguine tingui.  
 nec minus adsiduis flagrant elidere saxis  
 prodigiale caput, quod iam de cuspide summa  
 88

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

They stamp on that face of greed and while yet he lives pluck out his eyes ; others seize and carry off his severed arms. One cuts off his foot, another wrenches a shoulder from the torn sinews ; one lays bare the ribs of the cleft spine, another his liver, his heart, his still panting lungs. There is not space enough to satisfy their anger nor room to wreak their hate. Scarce when his death had been accomplished do they leave him ; his body is hacked in pieces and the fragments borne on the soldiers' spears. Thus red with blood ran the Boeotian mountain when the Maenads caused Pentheus' destruction or when Latona's daughter seen by Actaeon betrayed the huntsman, suddenly transformed into a stag, to the fury of her Molossian hounds. Dost thou hope, Fortune, thus to right thy wrongs ? Seekest thou to atone by this meting out of punishment for favour ill bestowed ? Dost thou with one death make payment for ten thousand murders ? Come, portion out Rufinus' corpse among the lands he has wronged. Give the Thracians his head ; let Greece have as her due his body. What shall be given the rest ? Give but a limb apiece, there are not enough for the peoples he has ruined.

The citizens leave the town and hasten exulting to the spot from every quarter, old men and girls among them whom nor age nor sex could keep at home. Widows whose husbands he had killed, mothers whose children he had murdered hurry to the joyful scene with eager steps. They are fain to trample the torn limbs and stain their deep pressed feet with the blood. So, too, they eagerly hurl a shower of stones at the monstrous head, nodding from the summit of the spear that transfixed it as it

## CLAUDIAN

nutabat digna rediens ad moenia pompa. 435  
 dextera quin etiam ludo concessa vagatur  
 aera petens poenasque animi persolvit avari  
 terribili lucro vivosque imitata retentus  
 cogitur adductis digitos inflectere nervis.

Desinat elatis quisquam confidere rebus 440  
 instabilesque deos ac lubrica numina discat.  
 illa manus, quae sceptris sibi gestanda parabat,  
 cuius se totiens summisit ad oscula supplex  
 nobilitas, inhumata diu miseroque revulsa  
 corpore feralem quaestum post fata reposcit. 445  
 adspiciat quisquis nimium sublata secundis  
 colla gerit : triviis calcandus spargitur ecce,  
 qui sibi pyramidas, qui non cedentia templis  
 ornatura suos extruxit culmina manes,  
 et qui Sidonio velari credidit ostro, 450  
 nudus pascit aves. iacet en, qui possidet orbem,  
 exiguae telluris inops et pulvere raro  
 per partes tegitur nusquam totiensque sepultus.

Senserunt convexa necem tellusque nefandum  
 amolitur onus iam respirantibus astris. 455  
 infernos gravat umbra lacus. pater Aeacus horret  
 intransentemque etiam latratu Cerberus urget.  
 tunc animae, quas ille fero sub iure peremit,  
 circumstant nigrique trahunt ad iudicis urnam  
 infesto fremitu : veluti pastoris in ora 460  
 commotae glomerantur apes, qui dulcia raptu  
 mella vehit, pennasque cient et spicula tendunt  
 et tenuis saxi per propugnacula cinctae

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

was carried back in merited splendour to the city. Nay his hand too, made over to their mockery, goes a-begging for alms, and with its awful gains pays the penalty for his greedy soul, while forced, in mimicry of its living clutch, to draw up the fingers by their sinews.

Put not now your trust in prosperity ; learn that the gods are inconstant and heaven untrustworthy. That hand which sought to wield a sceptre, which a humbled nobility stooped so often to kiss, now torn from its wretched trunk and left long unburied begs after death a baneful alms. Let him gaze on this whoso carries his head high in pride of prosperity, see trodden under foot at the cross-roads him who built pyramids for himself and a tomb, large as a temple, to the glory of his own ghost. He who trusted to be clothed in Tyrian purple is now a naked corpse and food for birds. See, he who owns the world lies denied six foot of earth, half covered with a sprinkling of dust, given no grave yet given so many.

Heaven knew of his death and earth is freed of her hated burden, now that the stars can breathe again. His shade oppresses the rivers of Hell. Old Aeacus shudders and Cerberus bays to stop, in this case, the *entry* of a ghost. Then those shades which he had sent to death beneath his cruel laws flock round him and hale him away with horrid shoutings to the tribunal of the gloomy judge : even as bees whom a shepherd has disturbed swarm round his head when he would rob them of their sweet honey, and flutter their wings and put forth their stings, making them ready for battle in the fastnesses of their little rock, and seek to defend the



## CLAUDIAN

rimosam patriam dilectaque pumicis antra  
defendunt pronoque favos examine velant. 465

Est locus infaustis quo conciliantur in unum  
Cocytos Phlegethonque vadis ; inamoenus uterque  
alveus ; hic volvit lacrimas, hic igne redundat.  
turris per geminos, flammis vicinior, amnes  
porrigitur solidoque rigens adamante sinistrum 470  
proluit igne latus ; dextro Cocytia findit  
aequora triste gemens et fletu concita plangit.  
huc post emeritam mortalia saecula vitam  
deveniunt. ibi nulla manent discrimina fati,  
nullus honos vanoque exutum nomine regem 475  
proturbat plebeius egens. quaesitor in alto  
conspicuus solio pertemptat crimina Minos  
et iustis dirimit sontes. quos nolle fateri  
viderit, ad rigidi transmittit verbera fratris.  
nam iuxta Rhadamanthys agit. cum gesta superni  
curriculi totosque diu perspexerit actus, 481  
exaequat damnum meritis et muta ferarum  
cogit vincla pati. truculentos ingerit ursis  
praedonesque lupis ; fallaces vulpibus addit.  
at qui desidia semper vinoque gravatus, 485  
indulgens Veneri, voluit torpescere luxu,  
hunc suis inmundi pingues detrudit in artus.  
qui iusto plus esse loquax arcanaque suevit  
prodere, piscosas fertur victurus in undas,  
ut nimiam pensent aeterna silentia vocem. 490  
quos ubi per varias annis ter mille figuras  
egit, Lethaeo purgatos flumine tandem  
rursus ad humanae revocat primordia formae.

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

crevices of their home, their beloved pumice-stone cave, swarming over the honeycombs therein.

There is a place where the unhallowed rivers of Cocytus and Phlegethon mingle their dread streams of tears and fire. Between the rivers yet nearer to that of Phlegethon there juts a tower stiff with solid adamant that bathes its left side in the flames ; its right hand wall extends into Cocytus' stream and echoes the lamentation of the river of tears. Hither come all the children of men whose life is ended ; here there abide no marks of earthly fortune ; no reverence is shown ; the common beggar ousts the king, now stripped of his empty title. Seen afar on his lofty throne the judge Minos examines the charges and separates the wicked from the righteous. Those whom he sees unwilling to confess their sins he remits to the lash of his stern brother ; for he, Rhadamanthus, is busy close at hand. When he has closely examined the deeds of their earthly life and all that they did therein, he suits the punishment to their crimes and makes them undergo the bonds of dumb animals. The spirits of the cruel enter into bears, of the rapacious into wolves, of the treacherous into foxes. Those, on the other hand, who were ever sunk in sloth, sodden with wine, given to venery, sluggish from excesses, he compelled to enter the fat bodies of filthy swine. Was any above measure talkative, a betrayer of secrets, he was carried off, a fish, to live in the waters amid his kind, that in eternal silence he might atone for his garrulity. When for thrice a thousand years he had forced these through countless diverse shapes, he sends them back once more to the beginnings of human form purged at last with Lethe's stream.

## CLAUDIAN

Tum quoque, dum lites Stygiique negotia solvit  
 dura fori veteresque reos ex ordine quaerit, 495  
 Rufinum procul ecce notat visuque severo  
 lustrat et ex imo concussa sede profatur :

“ Huc superum labes, huc insatiabilis auri  
 proluvies pretioque nihil non ause parato,  
 quodque mihi summum scelus est, huc improbe legum  
 venditor, Arctoi stimulator perfide Martis ! 501  
 cuius ob innumeras strages angustus Avernii  
 iam sinus et plena lassatur portitor alno.  
 quid demens manifesta negas ? en pectus inustae  
 deformant maculae vitiisque inolevit imago 505  
 nec sese commissa tegunt. genus omne dolorum  
 in te ferre libet : dubio tibi pendula rupes  
 inmineat lapsu, volucer te torqueat axis,  
 te refugi fallant latices atque ore natanti  
 arescat decepta sitis, dapibusque relictis 510  
 in tua mansurus migret praecordia vultur.  
 quamquam omnes alii, quos haec tormenta fatigant,  
 pars quota sunt, Rufine, tui ! quid tale vel audax  
 fulmine Salmoneus vel lingua Tantalus egit  
 aut inconsulto Tityos deliquit amore ? 515  
 cunctorum si facta simul iungantur in unum,  
 praecedes numero. cui tanta piacula quisquam  
 supplicio conferre valet ? quid denique dignum  
 omnibus inveniam, vincant cum singula poenas ?  
 tollite de mediis animarum dedecus umbris. 520  
 adspexisse sat est. oculis iam parcite nostris  
 et Ditis purgate domos. agitate flagellis

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

So then while he settles these suits, dread business of that infernal court, while he examines in due order the criminals of old, he marks afar Rufinus, scans him with a stern scrutiny and speaks, shaking his throne to its foundation. "Hither, Rufinus, scourge of the world, bottomless sink of gold who wouldst dare aught for money ; hither conscienceless seller of justice (that crime of crimes), faithless cause of that northern war whose thousand slaughtered victims now throng Hell's narrow entry and weigh down Charon's crowded barque. Madman, why deny what all know ? The foul stains of wickedness are branded upon thy heart, thy crimes have made their impress on thy spirit and thy sins cannot be hid. Right glad I am to sentence thee to every kind of punishment. O'er thee shall hang the threatening rock the moment of whose fall thou knowest not. The circling wheel shall rack thee. Thy lips the stream's waves shall flee, thirst shall parch thee to whose chin its elusive waters mount. The vulture shall leave his former prey and feast for ever on thy heart. And yet all these, Rufinus, whom the like punishments torment, how paltry their wickedness compared with thine ! Did bold Salmoneus' thunderbolt or Tantalus' tongue ever do like wrong or Tityos so offend with his mad love ? Join all their crimes together yet wilt thou surpass them. What sufficient atonement can be found for such wickedness ? What to match thy sum of crimes whose single misdeeds outmatch all punishment ? Shades, remove from this our ghostly company that presence that disgraces it. To have seen once is enough. Have mercy now on our eyes, and cleanse the realm of Dis. Drive



## CLAUDIAN

trans Styga, trans Erebum, vacuo mandate barathro  
infra Titanum tenebras infraque recessus  
Tartareos ipsumque <sup>1</sup> Chaos, qua noctis opacae 525  
fundamenta latent ; praeceps ibi mersus anhelet,  
dum rotat astra polus, feriunt dum litora venti.”

<sup>1</sup> *MSS. have nostrumque*

## THE SECOND BOOK AGAINST RUFINUS

him with whips beyond the Styx, beyond Erebus ; thrust him down into the empty pit beneath the lightless prison of the Titans, below the depths of Tartarus and Chaos' own realm, where lie the foundations of thickest midnight ; deep hidden there let him live while ever the vault of heaven carries round the stars and the winds beat upon the land."

## DE BELLO GILDONICO

### LIBER I

(XV)

Redditus imperiis Auster subiectaque rursus  
alterius convexa poli. rectore sub uno  
conspirat geminus frenis communibus orbis.  
iunximus Europen Libyae. concordia fratrum  
plena redit. patriis solum quod defuit armis, 5  
tertius occubuit nati virtute tyrannus.  
horret adhuc animus manifestaue gaudia differt,  
dum stupet et tanto cunctatur credere voto.  
necdum Cinyphias exercitus attigit oras :  
iam domitus Gildo. nullis victoria nodis 10  
haesit, non spatio terrae, non obice ponti.  
congressum profugum captum vox nuntiat una  
rumoremque sui praevenit laurea belli.  
quo, precor, haec effecta deo ? robusta vetusque  
tempore tam parvo potuit dementia vinci ? 15  
quem veniens indixit hiems, ver perculit hostem.

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<sup>1</sup> For the details of Gildo's rebellion see Introduction, p. x.

<sup>2</sup> The Cinyps is a river in Libya; cf. Virg. *Georg.* iii. 312.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO<sup>1</sup>

### BOOK I

#### (XV)

The kingdom of the south is restored to our empire, the sky of that other hemisphere is once more brought into subjection. East and West live in amity and concord beneath the sway of one ruler. We have joined Europe again to Africa, and unswerving singleness of purpose unites the brother emperors. The would-be third participant of empire has fallen before the prowess of Honorius the son—that one victory that failed to grace the arms of Theodosius, the father. Still is my mind troubled and admits not the universal joy for very amazement, nor can believe the fulfilment of its heartfelt prayers. Not yet had the army landed upon Africa's<sup>2</sup> coasts when Gildo yielded to defeat. No difficulties delayed our victorious arms, neither length of march nor intervening ocean. One and the same word brings news of the conflict, the flight, the capture of Gildo. The news of victory outstripped the news of the war that occasioned it. What god wrought this for us? Could madness so strong, so deep-seated be overcome so soon? Winter brought us news of the enemy, spring destroyed him.



## CLAUDIAN

Exitium iam Roma timens et fessa negatis  
 frugibus ad rapidi limen tendebat Olympi  
 non solito vultu nec qualis iura Britannis  
 dividit aut trepidos summittit fascibus Indos. 20  
 vox tenuis tardique gradus oculique iacentes  
 interius ; fugere genae ; ieiuna lacertos  
 exedit macies. umeris vix sustinet aegris  
 squalentem clipeum ; laxata casside prodit  
 canitiem plenamque trahit rubiginis hastam. 25  
 attigit ut tandem caelum genibusque Tonantis  
 procubuit, tales orditur maesta querellas :

“ Si mea mansuris meruerunt moenia nasci,  
 Iuppiter, auguriis, si stant inmota Sibyllae  
 carmina, Tarpeias si necdum respuis arces : 30  
 advenio supplex, non ut proculcet Araxen  
 consul ovans nostraeve premant pharetrata secures  
 Susa, nec ut Rubris aquilas figamus harenis.  
 haec nobis, haec ante dabas ; nunc pabula tantum  
 Roma precor. miserere tuae, pater optime, gentis, 35  
 extremam defende famem. satiavimus iram  
 si qua fuit ; lugenda Getis et flenda Suebis  
 hausimus ; ipsa meos horreret Parthia casus.  
 quid referam morbive luem tumulosve repletos  
 stragibus et crebras corrupto sidere mortes ? 40  
 aut fluvium per tecta vagum summisque minatum  
 collibus ? ingentes vixi summersa carinas  
 remorumque sonos et Pyrrhae saecula sensi.

“ Ei mihi, quo Latiae vires urbisque potestas  
 100

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

Rome, the goddess, fearing for her city's destruction and weak with corn withheld, hastened to the threshold of revolving Olympus with looks unlike her own ; not with such countenance does she assign laws to the Britons, or subject the frightened Indians to her rule. Feeble her voice, slow her step, her eyes deep buried. Her cheeks were sunken and hunger had wasted her limbs. Scarce can her weak shoulders support her unpolished shield. Her ill-fitting helmet shows her grey hairs and the spear she carries is a mass of rust. At last she reaches heaven and falls at the Thunderer's feet and utters this mournful complaint : " If prophecy rightly foretold the permanence of the rising walls of Rome ; if the Sibyl's verse is unalterable ; if thou art not yet wearied of our city and the Capitol, I come to thee as a suppliant. My prayer is not that a consul may march in triumph along Araxes' banks, nor that Rome's power may crush the archer Persians and Susa their capital, nor yet that we may plant our standards on the Red Sea's strand. All this thou grantedst us of old. 'Tis but food I, Rome, ask for now ; father, take pity on thy chosen race and ease us of this hunger unto death. Whatever thy displeasure, we have surely sated it. The very Getae and Suebi would pity our sufferings ; Parthia's self would shudder at my disasters. What need have I to mention the pestilence, the heaps of corpses, the numberless deaths wherewith the very air is corrupted ? Why tell of Tiber's flooded stream, sweeping betwixt roofs and threatening the very hills ? My submerged city has borne mighty ships, echoed the sound of oars, and experienced Pyrrha's flood.

" Woe is me, whither are fled the power of Latium

# CLAUDIAN

decidit ! in qualem paulatim fluximus umbram ! 45  
 armato quondam populo patrumque vigebam  
 conciliis ; domi terras urbesque revinxi  
 legibus : ad solem victrix utrumque cucurri.  
 postquam iura ferox in se communia Caesar  
 transtulit, et lapsi mores desuetaque priscis 50  
 artibus in gremium pacis servile recessi,  
 tot mihi pro meritis Libyam Nilumque dedere,  
 et dominam plebem bellatoremque senatum  
 classibus aestivis alerent geminoque vicissim  
 litore diversi complerent horrea venti. 55  
 stabat certa salus : Memphis si forte negasset,  
 pensabam Pharium Gaetulis messibus annum,  
 frugiferas certare rates lateque videbam  
 Punica Niliacis concurrere carbasa velis.  
 cum subiit par Roma mihi divisaque sumpsit 60  
 aequales Aurora togas, Aegyptia rura  
 in partem cessere novae. spes unica nobis  
 restabat Libyae, quae vix aegreque fovebat ;  
 solo ducta Noto, numquam segura futuri,  
 semper inops, ventique fidem poscebat et anni. 65  
 hanc quoque nunc Gildo rapuit sub fine cadentis  
 autumnus. pavidus metimur caerula voto,  
 puppis si qua venit, si quid fortasse potenti  
 vel pudor extorsit domino vel praeda reliquit.  
 pascimur arbitrio Mauri nec debita reddi, 70

<sup>1</sup> Claudian means that the African corn-supply was not always to be relied upon because (1) there might be a bad season, (2) there might be unfavourable winds.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

and the might of Rome ? To what a shadow of our former glory are we by gradual decline arrived ! Time was when my men bore arms and my grey-beards met in council ; mistress of the world was I and lawgiver to mankind. From rising to setting sun I sped in triumph. When proud Caesar had transferred my people's power to himself, when manners became corrupt and forgetful of war's old discipline I declined into the servile lap of peace, the emperors rewarded me with Africa and Egypt that they might nourish the sovereign people and the Senate, arbiter of peace and war, by means of summer-spiced fleets, and that the winds, blowing alternately from either shore, should fill our granaries with corn. Our provisioning was secure. Should Memphis perchance have denied us food, I would make up for the failure of Egypt's harvest by the African supply. I saw competition between grain-bearing vessels, and where'er I looked I beheld the fleet of Carthage strive in rivalry with that of the Nile. When a second Rome arose and the Eastern Empire assumed the toga of the West, Egypt fell beneath that new sway. Africa remained our only hope and scarcely did she suffice to feed us, whose corn-ships none but the south wind wafted across. Her promise for the future was insecure, as, ever helpless, she demanded the loyalty of the wind and of the season.<sup>1</sup> This province, too, Gildo seized towards the close of autumn. Anxiously and prayerfully we scan the blue sea to glance a coming sail in the fond hope that perchance a sense of shame has extorted somewhat from the powerful tyrant, or the conqueror left some corner unconquered. We are fed at the pleasure of the Moor,

## CLAUDIAN

sed sua concedi iactat gaudetque diurnos  
 ut famulae praeberere cibos vitamque famemque  
 librat barbarico fastu vulgique superbit  
 fletibus et tantae suspendit fata ruinae.  
 Romuleas vendit segetes et possidet arva 75  
 vulneribus quaesita meis. ideo tot annos  
 flebile cum tumida bellum Carthagine gessi ?  
 idcirco voluit contempta luce reverti  
 Regulus ? hoc damnis, genitor, Cannensibus emi ?  
 incassum totiens lituis navalibus arsit 80  
 Hispanum Siculumque fretum vastataque tellus  
 totque duces caesi ruptaque emissus ab Alpe  
 Poenus et attonitae iam proximus Hannibal urbi ?  
 scilicet ut domitis frueretur barbarus Afris,  
 muro sustinui Martem noctesque cruentas 85  
 Collina pro turre tuli ? Gildonis ad usum  
 Carthago ter victa ruit ? hoc mille gementis  
 Italiae clades impensaue saecula bellis,  
 hoc Fabius fortisque mihi Marcellus agebant,  
 ut Gildo cumulare opes ? haurire venena 90  
 compulimus dirum Syphacem fractumque Metello  
 traximus inmanem Marii sub vincla Iugurtham,  
 et Numidae Gildonis erunt ? pro funera tanta,  
 pro labor ! in Bocchi regnum sudavit uterque  
 Scipio. Romano vicistis sanguine Mauri. 95  
 ille diu miles populus, qui praefuit orbi,  
 qui trabeas et sceptrum dabat, quem semper in armis  
 horribilem gentes, placidum sensere subactae,

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<sup>1</sup> Bocchus, properly a king of Mauritania, stands here typically for any native monarch.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

who boasts that he does not repay a debt but that he gives us of his own, and rejoices to apportion out my daily food to me, as though I were his slave ; with a barbarian's pride he weighs me life or death by hunger, triumphs in a people's tears, and holds above our heads an universal destruction. He sells Rome's crops and possesses land won by my wounds. Was it for this that I waged lamentable war with proud Carthage for so many years ? For this that Regulus reckoned his life as naught and would fain return to his captors ? Is this my reward, father, for my losses on Cannae's field ? Have the Spanish and Sicilian seas resounded so often to our navies' clarion for naught ? For naught my lands been laid waste, so many of my generals slain, the Carthaginian invader broken his way through the Alps, Hannibal approached my affrighted capital ? Have I kept the foe at bay with my walls and spent nights of slaughter before the Colline gate to enable a barbarian to reap the fruits of conquered Africa ? Has thrice-conquered Carthage fallen for Gildo's benefit ? Was this the object of mourning Italy's thousand disasters, of centuries spent in war, of Fabius' and Marcellus' deeds of daring—that Gildo should heap him up riches ? We forced cruel Scyphax to drink poison, drove fierce Iugurtha, whose power Metellus had broken, beneath Marius' yoke—and shall Africa be Gildo's ? Alas for our toil and those many deaths : the two Scipios have laboured, it seems, to further Bocchus' <sup>1</sup> native rule ; Roman blood has given victory to the Moors. That long warlike race, lord of the world, that appointed consuls and kings, whom foreign nations found ever formidable in war, though gentle once they had

## CLAUDIAN

nunc inhonorus egens perfert miserabile pacis  
 supplicium nulloque palam circumdatus hoste 100  
 obsessi discrimen habet. per singula letum  
 impendet momenta mihi dubitandaque pauci  
 praescribunt alimenta dies. heu prospera fata !  
 quid mihi septenos montes turbamque dedistis,  
 quae parvo non possit ali ? felicior essem 105  
 angustis opibus ; mallem tolerare Sabinos  
 et Veios ; brevior duxi securius aevum.  
 ipsa nocet moles. utinam remeare liceret  
 ad veteres fines et moenia pauperis Anci.  
 sufficerent Etrusca mihi Campanaque culta 110  
 et Quincti Curiique seges, patriaeque petenti  
 rusticus inferret proprias dictator aristas.  
 “ Nunc quid agam ? Libyam Gildo tenet, altera  
 Nilum.  
 ast ego, quae terras umeris pontumque subegi,  
 deseror : emeritae iam praemia nulla senectae. 115  
 di, quibus iratis crevi, succurrite tandem,  
 exorate patrem ; tuque o si sponte per altum  
 vecta Palatinis mutasti collibus Idam  
 praelatoque lavas Phrygios Almone leones,  
 maternis precibus natum iam flecte, Cybebe. 120  
 sin prohibent Parcae falsisque elusa vetustas  
 auspiciis, alio saltem prosternite casu  
 et poenae mutatae genus. Porsenna reducat  
 Tarquinius ; renovet ferales Allia pugnas ;  
 me potius saevi manibus permittite Pyrrhi, 125

<sup>1</sup> Doubtless a reference to Cincinnatus.

<sup>2</sup> Claudian means by “*altera*” the Eastern Empire.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

been subdued, dishonoured now and poverty-stricken, bends beneath the cruel lash of peace, and though not openly beleaguered by any foe yet has all the hazard of a siege. Destruction threatens me hourly ; a few days will set a limit to my uncertain food-supply. Out upon thee, prosperity ! Why hast thou given me seven hills and such a population as a small supply cannot nourish ? Happier I, had my power been less. Better to have put up with Samnium and Veii ; in narrower bonds I passed securer days. My very magnitude undoes me ; would that I could return to my former boundaries and the walls of poor Ancus. Enough for me then would be the ploughlands of Etruria and Campania, the farms of Cincinnatus and Curius, and at his country's prayer the rustic dictator<sup>1</sup> would bring his home-grown wheat.

“What am I to do now ? Gildo holds Libya, another<sup>2</sup> Egypt ; while I, who subdued land and sea with my strong arm, am left to perish. Veteran of so many wars, can I claim no reward in mine old age ? Ye gods in whose despite, it seems, I increased, now aid me at the last ; pray Jove for me. And thou, Cybele, if ever of thine own free will thou wert carried over the sea and in exchange for Mount Ida tookest the hills of Rome and didst bathe thy Phrygian lions in Almo's more favoured stream, move now thy son<sup>3</sup> with a mother's entreaties. But if the fates forbid and our first founder was misled by augury untrue, o'erwhelm me at least in some different ruin, and change the nature of my punishment. Let Porsenna bring back the Tarquins ; let Allia renew her bloody battle. Let me fall rather into the hands of cruel

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Jupiter.



## CLAUDIAN

me Senonum furiis, Brenni me reddite flammis.  
cuncta fame leviora mihi."

Sic fata refusis

obticuit lacrimis. mater Cytherea parensque  
flet Mavors sanctaeque memor Tritonia Vestae,  
nec Cybele sicco nec stabat lumine Iuno. 130  
maerent indigetes et si quos Roma recepit  
aut dedit ipsa deos. genitor iam corde remitti  
coeperat et sacrum dextra sedare tumultum,  
cum procul insanis quatiens ululatibus axem  
et contusa genas mediis adparet in astris 135  
Africa : rescissae vestes et spicea passim  
serta iacent ; lacero crinales vertice dentes  
et fractum pendebat ebur, talique superbas  
inrupit clamore fores :

" Quid magne moraris

Iuppiter avulso nexu pelagique solutis 140  
legibus iratum populis inmittere fratrem ?  
mergi prima peto ; veniant praerupta Pachyno  
aequora, laxatis subsidant Syrtibus urbes.  
si mihi Gildonem nequeunt abducere fata,  
me rape Gildoni. felicior illa perustae 145  
pars Libyae, nimio quae se munita calore  
defendit tantique vacat secunda tyranni.  
crescat zona rubens ; medius flagrantis Olympi  
me quoque limes agat ; melius deserta iacebo  
vomeres impatiens. pulsus dominantur aristis 150  
dipsades et sitiens attollat glaeba cerastas.  
quid me temperies iuvit ? quid mitior aether ?  
Gildoni fecunda fui. iam solis habenae

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Palladium, the image of Pallas (= Minerva),  
rescued by Metellus from the burning temple of Vesta,  
241 B.C.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

Pyrrhus ; abandon me to the fury of the Senones or the flames of Brennus. Welcome all this rather than to starve ! ”

So spake she, and upwelling tears choked her voice. Venus, mother of Aeneas, wept, and Mars, father of Romulus and Minerva, mindful of Vesta's sacred charge.<sup>1</sup> Nor Cybele nor Juno stood with dry eyes. The heroes mourn and all the gods whose worship Rome received from without or herself inaugurated. And now began the heart of Jove to soften. With hand outstretched he was checking the murmurings of the gods when, shaking heaven with distraught cries, Africa, her cheeks torn, appeared in the distance advancing amid the stars. Torn was her raiment, scattered her crown of corn. Her head was wounded and the ivory comb that secured her hair hung loose and broken. She rushed into Heaven's halls shouting thus : “ Great Jove, why delayest thou to loose the bonds of sea, to break its decree and hurl thy brother<sup>2</sup> in wrath against the land ? May I be the first to be overwhelmed. Welcome the broken waters from Pachynus' cape ; sink my cities in the freed Syrtes. If so be fate cannot rid me of Gildo, rid Gildo of me. Happier that region of Libya that defends itself by means of its own excessive heat and thus knows not the irksome rule of so savage a tyrant. Let the torrid zone spread. Let the midmost path of the scorching sky burn me also. Better I lay a desert nor ever suffered the plough. Let the dust-snake lord it in a cornless land and the thirsty earth give birth to nought but vipers. What avails me a healthy climate, a milder air ? My fruitfulness is but for

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Neptune.

## CLAUDIAN

bis senas torquent hiemes, cervicibus ex quo  
 haeret triste iugum. nostris iam luctibus ille 155  
 consenuit regnumque sibi tot vindicat annos.  
 atque utinam regnum ! privato iure tenemur  
 exigui specie fundi. quod Nilus et Atlas  
 dissidet, occiduis quod Gadibus arida Barce  
 quodque Paraetonio secedit litore Tingi, 160  
 hoc sibi transcripsit proprium. pars tertia mundi  
 unius praedonis ager.

“ Distantibus idem

inter se vitiis cinctus : quodcumque profunda  
 traxit avaritia, luxu peiore refundit.  
 instat terribilis vivis, morientibus heres, 165  
 virginibus raptor, thalamis obscaenus adulter.  
 nulla quies : oritur praeda cessante libido,  
 divitibusque dies et nox metuenda maritis.  
 quisquis vel locuples pulchra vel coniuge notus,  
 crimine pulsatur falso ; si crimina desunt, 170  
 accitus conviva perit. mors nulla refugit  
 artificem : varios sucos spumasque requirit  
 serpentum virides et adhuc ignota novercis  
 gramina. si quisquam vultu praesentia damnet  
 liberiusve gemat, dapibus crudelis in ipsis 175  
 emicat ad nutum stricto mucrone minister.  
 fixus quisque toro tacita formidine libat  
 carnifices epulas incertaque pocula pallens  
 haurit et intentos capiti circumspicit enses.  
 splendet Tartareo furialis mensa paratu 180  
 caede madens, atrox gladio, suspecta veneno.

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<sup>1</sup> Tangiers.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

Gildo. Twelve courses has the sun's chariot run since first I wore this sorry yoke. He has now grown old amid our miseries and these many years have set their seal upon his rule. Rule—would it were rule : a private owner possesses me, as it had been some pelting farm. From Nile to Atlas' mount, from scorched Barce to western Gades, from Tingi<sup>1</sup> to Egypt's coast Gildo has appropriated the land as his own. A third of the world belongs to one robber-chief.

“ He is a prey to the most diverse vices : whatsoe'er his bottomless greed has stolen, a yet more insatiable profligacy squanders. He is the terror of the living, the heir of the dead, the violator of the unwed, and the foul corrupter of the marriage-bed. He is never quiet ; when greed is sated lust is rampant ; day is a misery to the rich, night to the married. Is any wealthy or known to possess a beautiful wife, he is overwhelmed by some trumped-up charge. If no charge be brought against him, he is asked to a banquet and there murdered. No form of death but is known to this artist in crime. He investigates the properties of different poisons and serpents' livid venom and knows of deadly herbs unknown even to stepmothers. If any condemns what he sees by a look or sighs with too much freedom, at the very festal board out darts some henchman with drawn sword at a nod from his master. Each glued to his seat tastes in silent fear of the deadly banquet ; drains, pale of face, the treacherous cup, and looks around at the weapons that threaten his life. The deadly board is decked in infernal splendour, wet with slaughter, dreadful with fear of sword and suspected poison. When wine has

## CLAUDIAN

ut vino calefacta Venus, tum saevior ardet  
 luxuries, mixtis redolent unguenta coronis :  
 crinitos inter famulos pubemque canoram  
 orbatas iubet ire nurus nuperque peremptis 185  
 adridere viris. Phalarim tormentaue flammae  
 profuit et Siculi mugitus ferre iuveni  
 quam tales audire choros. nec damna pudoris  
 turpia sufficiunt : Mauris clarissima quaeque  
 fastidita datur. media Carthagine ductae 190  
 barbara Sidoniae subeunt conubia matres ;  
 Aethiopem nobis generum, Nasamona maritum  
 ingerit ; exterret cunabula discolor infans.  
 his fretus sociis ipso iam principe maior  
 incedit ; peditum praecurrunt agmina longe ; 195  
 circumdant equitum turmae regesque clientes,  
 quos nostris ditat spoliis. proturbat avita  
 quemque domo ; veteres detrudit rure colonos.  
 exiliis dispersa feror. numquamne reverti  
 fas erit errantesque solo iam reddere cives ? ” 200  
 Iret adhuc in verba dolor, ni Iuppiter alto  
 coepisset solio (voces adamante notabat  
 Atropos et Lachesis iungebat stamina dictis) :  
 “ nec te, Roma, diu nec te patiemur inultam,  
 Africa. communem prosternet Honorius hostem. 205  
 pergite securae. vestrum vis nulla tenorem  
 separat et soli famulabitur Africa Romae.”  
 Dixit et adflavit Romam meliore iuventa.  
 continuo redit ille vigor senique colorem  
 mutavere comae. solidatam crista resurgens 210

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

inflamed the passions, his lust rages more savagely ; 'midst the mingled smell of scents and flowers, 'midst curled minions and youthful choirs he bids go sport the widowed wives whose husbands he but a moment ago has murdered. Better Phalaris and the torments of his furnace, better to listen to the bellowings of the Sicilian bull than to such songs as these. Nor is the base sacrifice of their good name enough. When tired of each noblest matron Gildo hands her over to the Moors. Married in Carthage city these Sidonian mothers needs must mate with barbarians. He thrusts upon me an Ethiopian as a son-in-law, a Berber as a husband. The hideous half-breed child affrights its cradle. Thanks to those base allies his state is more regal than that of the emperor himself. Before him goes a body of foot-soldiers, squadrons of cavalry surround him and client kings whom he enriches with our spoils. He drives one and all from their ancestral houses and expels husbandmen from farms so long theirs. My people are scattered in exile. Are my citizens never to return from their wanderings to their native soil ? ”

She would have spoken further in her grief had not Jove begun from his lofty throne—Atropos wrote down his words in adamant and Lachesis spun them in with her thread—“ Neither thou, Rome, nor yet thou, Africa, will we suffer to go long unavenged. Honorius shall disperse your common foe. Go in peace. No violence shall part your companionship ; Africa shall serve Rome, and Rome alone.”

He spake and breathed into Rome a youth renewed. Straightway her former strength returned, and her hair put off its grey of eld ; her helmet grew solid,

## CLAUDIAN

erexit galeam clipeique recanduit orbis  
et levis excussa micuit rubigine cornus.

Umentes iam noctis equos Lethaeaque Somnus  
frena regens tacito volvebat sidera curru.  
iam duo divorum proceres, maiorque minorque      215  
Theodosii, pacem laturi gentibus ibant,  
qui Iovis arcanos monitus mandataque ferrent  
fratribus et geminis sancirent foedera regnis :  
sic cum praecipites artem vicere procellae  
adsiduoque gemens undarum verbere nutat      220  
descensura ratis, caeca sub nocte vocati  
naufraga Ledaei sustentant vela Lacones.  
circulus ut patuit Lunae, secuere meatus  
diversos : Italas senior tendebat in oras ;  
at pater, intrantem Pontum qua Bosphorus artat,  
Arcadii thalamis ubique inlapsus Eoae.      226  
quem simulac vidit natus (nam clara nitebat  
Cynthia), permixto tremuerunt gaudia fletu  
complexuque fovens, quos non speraverat, artus  
“ O mihi post Alpes nunc primum reddite,” dixit, 230  
“ unde tuis optatus ades ? da tangere dextram,  
qua gentes cecidere ferae. quis tale removit  
praesidium terris ? ut te mortalia pridem  
implorant longaeque pium fortemque requirunt ! ”  
Cui pater in tales rupit suspiria voces :      235  
“ hoc erat ? in fratres medio discordia Mauro  
nascitur et mundus germanaque dissidet aula ?

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<sup>1</sup> Theodosius the younger is, of course, Theodosius I., the Emperor (see Introduction, p. vii). Theodosius the elder was his father. He was an able and trusted general of Valentinian I., who restored quiet in Britain (368–370), defeated the Alamanni (370), and crushed the revolt of Firmus, Gildo's brother (see line 333 of this poem) in Africa (? 372–374). His death was brought about by Mero-baudes, Gratian's minister (*cf.* viii. 26–9).

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

upright stood the plumes, the round shield shone once more, and gone was every trace of rust from her wingèd, gleaming spear.

Sleep was now driving the dew-drenched steeds of night, guiding them with the reins of Lethe and carrying round the stars in her silent course, when the elder and the younger Theodosius,<sup>1</sup> chief among the heroes divine, came to bring peace to men. They bore Jove's secret message and mandate to the two brothers and ratified the treaty between the two empires. So when at dead of night the driving tempest has brought the helmsman's skill to nought and the sinking ship groans and shudders at the waves' ceaseless shock, Leda's Spartan-born sons sustain the foundering bark in answer to the sailors' prayers. At the rise of the full moon the twain parted. The elder directed his steps towards the coasts of Italy, the younger visited the couch of Arcadius, gliding down to that Eastern city where Bosphorus narrows the entrance to the Euxine. As soon as the son saw his father (for the moon was shining brightly), he wept, yet trembled for joy, and embracing that form he had little hoped ever to embrace again, said: "O thou restored now to me for the first time since thy triumphs in the Alps, whence comest thou to thy loving son? Let me touch that hand that has conquered so many barbarian races! Who hath robbed the world of such a defender? How long a while has mankind prayed thine aid, and missed thy goodness and thy might!"

Sighing, the father made answer: "Was it for this? Is a Moor become a cause of discord between two brothers? Does the empire and court of the



## CLAUDIAN

Gildonisne salus tanti sit palma furoris ?  
 scilicet egregius morum magnoque tuendus  
 et cuius meritis pietas in fratre recedat ! 240  
 invito <sup>1</sup> genitore, vide, civile calebat  
 discidium ; dubio stabant Romana sub ictu ;  
 quis procul Armenius vel quis Maeotide ripa  
 rex ignotus agit, qui me non iuvit euntem  
 auxilio ? fovere Getae, venere Geloni. 245  
 solus at hic non puppe data, non milite misso  
 subsedit fluitante fide. si signa petisset  
 obvia, detecto summissius hoste dolerem :  
 restitit in speculis fati turbaque reductus  
 libravit geminas eventu iudice vires 250  
 ad rerum momenta cliens seseque daturus  
 victori ; fortuna simul cum mente pependit.  
 o si non cupidis essem praereptus ab astris,  
 exemplum sequerer Tulli laniandaque dumis  
 impia diversis aptarem membra quadrigis. 255  
 germani nunc usque tui responsa colebat :  
 en iterum calcat. tali te credere monstro  
 post patrem fratremque paras ? sed magna rependit  
 inque tuam sortem numerosas transtulit urbes !  
 ergo fas pretio cedit ? mercede placebit 260  
 proditio ? taceo, laesi quod transfuga fratris,  
 quod levis ingenio. quamvis discrimine summo  
 proditor adportet suspensa morte salutem  
 numquam gratus erit. damnamus luce reperta

<sup>1</sup> MSS. in primo ; *Birt suggests* invito, *Koch* infirmo

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<sup>1</sup> See note on viii. 401.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

East quarrel with those of the West? Can Gildo's salvation be fit guerdon for this mad rivalry? Great no doubt are his virtues, great should be the price paid to preserve them and such his merits as to banish affection in a brother. Look you, though I, thy sire, willed it not, civil war raged; the fortunes of Rome stood on a razor's edge. Was there a distant king of Armenia, an unknown monarch by Maeotis' shore but sent aid to mine enterprises? The Getae gave me succour, the Geloni came to my assistance. Gildo alone sent not a man, not a ship, but waited the issue in wavering loyalty. Had he sought the confronting host as an open foe my wrath had been less bitter. He stood apart on Fortune's watch-tower and, withdrawn from the throng, weighed this side against that, meaning to let the event decide him, dependent upon the turn things might take and ready to embrace the side of the victor. His fortune hung in the balance as well as his intention. Had I not been hurried to heaven by the impatient stars I would have followed the example of Tullus Hostilius and dragged the impious wretch limb from limb fastened to chariots driven different ways through thorn bushes.<sup>1</sup> Up to this time he has owed obedience to thy brother, now behold he spurns his commands. After thy father's and thy brother's fate art thou ready to trust thyself to such a villain? Is thine answer that he maketh great return and hath brought over many cities to thine allegiance? Shall honour, then, give place to utility? Can gain render treachery welcome? I make no mention of his cruel betrayal of thy brother; of his fickle nature; were a traitor to bring safety even when at peril's height death threatened, never shall he win gratitude. When our life is saved

## CLAUDIAN

perfidiam nec nos patimur committere tali. 265  
 hoc genus emptori cives cum moenibus offert,  
 hoc vendit patriam. plerique in tempus abusi  
 mox odere tamen : tenuit sic Graia Philippus  
 oppida ; Pellaeo libertas concidit auro.

Romani scelerum semper sprevere ministros. 270  
 noxia pollicitum domino miscere venena  
 Fabricius regi nudata fraude remisit,  
 infesto quem Marte petit, bellumque negavit  
 per famuli patrare nefas, ductosque Camillus  
 trans murum pueros obsessae reddidit urbi. 275

“ Traduntur poenis alii, cum proelia tollunt ;  
 hic manet ut moveat ? quod respuit alter in hostem,  
 suscipis in fratrem ? longi pro dedecus aevi !  
 cui placet, australes Gildo condonat habenas  
 tantaque mutatos sequitur provincia mores. 280  
 quaslibet ad partes animus nutaverit anceps,  
 transfundit secum Libyam refluumque malignus  
 commodat imperium. Mauri fuit Africa munus.  
 tollite Massylas fraudes, removete bilingues  
 insidias et verba soli spirantia virum. 285

ne consanguineis certetur comminus armis,  
 ne, precor. haec trucibus Thebis, haec digna Mycenis ;  
 in Mauros hoc crimen eat.

“ Quid noster iniquum  
 molitur Stilicho ? quando non ille iubenti  
 paruit ? an quisquam nobis devinctior extat ? 290

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

we condemn the treachery nor brook to entrust ourselves to such protection. 'Tis this sort that offers for purchase cities and their inhabitants, that sells its fatherland. Most make use of such for the moment but soon learn to hate them. 'Twas thus that Philip held the cities of Greece ; liberty fell before the attack of Macedonian gold. Rome has ever despised the ministers of guilt. Fabricius, discovering the plot, sent back to King Pyrrhus the slave who had promised to mingle deadly poison for his lord ; fierce war raged between them, but Fabricius refused to end it by means of the treachery of a slave. Camillus, too, gave back to the beleaguered city the boys brought to his camp from out the walls.

“These were consigned to punishment for seeking to put an end to wars. Is Gildo to live that he may kindle them ? Takest thou such measures against thy brother as another would disdain to take against an enemy ? O shame for unending ages ! Gildo entrusts the governance of the south to whom he will ; the great province of Africa obeys a tyrant's whim. To whichever side his fickle mind inclines, he carries Libya over with him and malignantly subjects it to a rule shifting as the tide. Africa was the gift of the Moor. Away with the trickery of the Massyli, their treacherous wiles and their words that breathe forth the poison of their land. Let not brother wage war on brother, I pray. That were worthy of cruel Thebes and Mycenae ; let that accusation be levelled against the Moors.

“What wrong is Stilicho devising ? when did he fail in his obedience ? than him what more loyal

## CLAUDIAN

ut sileam varios mecum quos gesserit actus,  
 quae vidi post fata, loquar. cum divus abirem,  
 res incompositas (fateor) tumidasque reliqui.  
 stringebat vetitos etiamnum exercitus enses  
 Alpinis odiis, alternaque iurgia victi 295  
 victoresque dabant. vix haec amentia nostris  
 excubiis, nedum puero rectore quiesset.  
 heu quantum timui vobis, quid libera tanti  
 militis auderet moles, cum patre remoto  
 ferveret iam laeta novis ! dissensus acerbus 300  
 et gravior consensus erat. tunc ipse paterna  
 successit pietate mihi tenerumque rudemque  
 fovit et in veros eduxit principis annos,  
 Rufinumque tibi, quem tu tremuisse fateris,  
 depulit. hunc solum memorem solumque fidelem 305  
 experior. volui si quid, dum vita maneret,  
 aut visus voluisse, gerit ; venerabilis illi  
 ceu praesens numenque vocor. si tanta recusas,  
 at soceri reverere faces, at respice fratris  
 conubium pignusque meae regale Serenae. 310  
 debueras etiam fraternis obviis ire  
 hostibus, ille tuis. quae gens, quis Rhenus et Hister  
 vos opibus iunctos conspirantesque tulisset ?  
 sed tantum permitte, cadat. nil poscimus ultra.  
 ille licet sese praetentis Syrtibus armet 315  
 oppositoque Atlante tegat, licet arva referta  
 anguibus et solis medios obiecerit aestus :  
 120

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

supporter have we? I will not mention the various brave deeds he did while yet with me; of those only I will tell which I saw after my death. When I was raised to heaven disorder—I admit it—and tumult did I leave behind me. The army was still drawing the forbidden sword in that Alpine war, and conquerors and conquered gave alternate cause for dissension. Scarce could this madness have been calmed by my vigilance, much less by a boy's rule. Ah, how I feared for you what the uncontrolled might of such vast armies might dare, when, your sire removed, there came the fevered delight in change! Dangerous was discord, more dangerous still unanimity. 'Twas then that Stilicho took my place in paternal love for thee, tended thine immature youth, and brought thee to the years and estate of an emperor. 'Twas he drove back Rufinus whom thou didst confess thou fearedst. Gratitude and loyalty I find in him alone. Did I want or seem to want aught, while yet I lived he accomplished it. Now I am dead he worships me as worthy of veneration and an ever present helper. If the thought of his goodness move thee not, at least show respect to thy brother's father-in-law: bethink thee of Honorius' marriage, the royal espousal of my niece Serena. Thou oughtest to face thy brother's foes, he thine. Could any nation, could the combined forces of Rhine and Danube have stood against you twain allied? Enough! bring about but the defeat of Gildo: I ask nought else. Though he entrench himself behind the protecting Syrtes and rely for safety on the intervening ocean; though he think to be defended by reason of his serpent-infested country and the fierce

## CLAUDIAN

novi consilium, novi Stilichonis in omnes  
aequalem casus animum : penetrabit harenas,  
inveniet virtute viam."

Sic divus et inde 320

sic natus : " iussis, genitor, parebitur ultro.  
amplector praecepta libens, nec carior alter  
cognato Stilichone mihi. commissa profanus  
ille luat ; redeat iam tutior Africa fratri."

Talia dum longo secum sermone retexunt, 325

Hesperiam pervenit avus castumque cubile  
ingreditur, Tyrio quo fusus Honorius ostro  
carpebat teneros Maria cum coniuge somnos.  
adsistit capiti ; tunc sic per somnia fatur :

" Tantane devictos tenuit fiducia Mauros, 330

care nepos ? iterum post me coniurat in arma  
progenies vesana Iubae bellumque resumit  
victoris cum stirpe sui ? Firmumne iacentem  
obliti Libyam nostro sudore receptam

rursus habent ? ausus Latio contendere Gildo 335

germani nec fata timet ? nunc ire profecto,  
nunc vellem notosque senex ostendere vultus :  
nonne meam fugiet Maurus cum viderit umbram ?

quid dubitas ? exsurge toris, invade rebellem, 340

captivum mihi redde meum. desiste morari.  
hoc generi fatale tuo : dum sanguis in orbe  
noster erit, semper pallebit regia Bocchi.

iungantur spoliis Firmi Gildonis opima ;

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<sup>1</sup> Firmus, brother of Gildo, had, during the reign of Valentinian, risen against the oppressive government of Romanus, count of Africa, and had been defeated by Theodosius the elder.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

sun's mid-day heat, yet well I know Stilicho's ingenuity—that mind of his equal to any emergency. He will force his way through the desert, his own greatness will lead him.”

Thus spake the dead emperor, whereon thus the son answered: “Right willingly, father, will I fulfil thy commands: ever ready am I to welcome thy behests. None is dearer to me than my kinsman Stilicho. Let the impious Gildo atone for his wrongs, and Africa be restored to my brother still safer than before.”

While father and son thus debated in long converse, Theodosius the grandfather made his way to Italy and entered the chaste bedchamber where on his couch of Tyrian purple Honorius lay in sweet sleep by the side of his wife Maria. At his head he stood and thus spake to him in a dream. “What rash confidence is this, dear grandson, that fills the conquered Moors? Does the mad race descended from Juba, the people whom I subdued, once more conspire to oppose Rome's power and recommence the war with its conqueror's grandson? Have they forgotten the defeat of Firmus<sup>1</sup>? Do they think to repossess Libya won back by the sweat of battle? Dares Gildo strive with Rome? Does he not fear his brother's fate. Fain would I go myself, old though I be, and show him the face he knows but too well. Will not the Moor flee my very shade, should he behold it? Why delayest thou? Up from thy bed; attack the rebel; give me back my prisoner; waste no more time. 'Tis Fate's gift to thy family. While yet the race of Theodosius treads the earth the palace of Bocchus shall go in fear. Let the spoils of Gildo be added to those of Firmus;



## CLAUDIAN

exornet geminos Maurusia laurea currus :  
 una domus totiens una de gente triumphet. 345  
 di bene, quod tantis interlabentibus annis  
 servati Firmusque mihi fraterque nepoti.”  
 dixit et adflatus vicino sole refugit.

At iuvenem stimulis inmanibus aemula virtus  
 exacuit ; iam puppe vehi, iam stagna secare 350  
 fervet et absentes invadere cuspide Mauros.  
 tum iubet acciri socerum dextramque vocato  
 conserit et, quae sit potior sententia, quaerit :

“ Per somnos mihi, sancte pater, iam saepe futura  
 panduntur multaeque canunt praesagia noctes. 355  
 namque procul Libycos venatu cingere saltus  
 et iuga rimari canibus Gaetula videbar.  
 maerebat regio saevi vastata leonis  
 incursu ; pecudum strages passimque iuveni  
 semineces et adhuc infecta mapalia tabo 360  
 sparsaque sanguineis pastorum funera campis.  
 adgredior latebras monstri mirumque relatu  
 conspicio : dilapsus honos, cervice minaces  
 defluxere iubae ; fractos inglorius armos  
 supposuit, servile gemens ; iniectaque vincla 365  
 unguibus et subitae collo sonuere catenae.  
 nunc etiam paribus secum certare tropaeis  
 hortator me cogit avus. quonam usque remoti  
 cunctamur ? decuit pridem complere biremes  
 et pelagi superare moras. transmittere primus 370  
 ipse paro ; quaecumque meo gens barbara nutu  
 stringitur, adveniat : Germania cuncta feratur

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Stilicho.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

let the bays of Mauretania deck chariots twain and one house triumph thus many times over one race. Thanks be to the gods who have interposed so many years between the sacrifice of Firmus to my arms and that of Firmus' brother to those of my grandson." He spake, then fled, as he felt the breath of the approaching dawn.

Then emulous courage roused the emperor with insistent goad. He burns to set sail, to cleave the main, to assail with the spear the distant Moors. So he summons his father-in-law<sup>1</sup> and clasping his hand asks what course of action he advises. "Full often, reverend sire, is the future revealed to me in dreams ; many a night brings prophecy. Methought I surrounded in hunting the distant glades of Africa and scoured the Gaetulian mountains with my hounds. The district was distressed by reason of the incursions of a ravening lion. On all sides were slaughtered beasts and mangled heifers, and still their homesteads ran red with blood, and corpses of many a shepherd lay weltering in the bloody fields. I approached the beast's cave and saw a sight wonderful to relate. Gone was that noble form, drooping on the neck the threatening mane ; there he crouched, defeated, humbled, with slavish moans ; fetters were upon his paws and a chain clanked of a sudden on his neck. Now, too, my grand-sire eagerly urges me to rival his triumphs with my own. Why, he asked, did I delay and hesitate so long ? Already my ships should have been manned and the sea's threatened opposition overcome. I myself am ready to cross in the first vessel. Let every foreign nation that is bound beneath my rule come to our aid. Let all Germany be transported and

## CLAUDIAN

navibus et socia comitentur classe Sygambri.  
 pallida translatum iam sentiat Africa Rhenum. 374  
 an patiar tot probra sedens iuvenisque relinquam  
 quae tenui rexique puer? bis noster ad Alpes  
 alterius genitor defensum regna cucurrit.  
 nos praedae faciles insultandique iacemus? ”  
 Finierat. Stilicho contra cui talia reddit :  
 “ adversine tubam princeps dignabere Mauri? 380  
 auferet ignavus clari solacia leti,  
 te bellante mori? decernet Honorius inde,  
 hinc Gildo? prius astra Chaos miscebit Averno.  
 vindictam mandasse sat est; plus nominis horror  
 quam tuus ensis aget. minuit praesentia famam. 385  
 qui stetit aequatur campo, collataque nescit  
 maiestatem acies. sed quod magis utile factu  
 atque hosti gravius (sensus adverte) docebo.  
 est illi patribus, sed non et moribus isdem  
 Mascezel, fugiens qui dira piacula fratris 390  
 spesque suas vitamque tuo commisit asylo.  
 hunc ubi temptatis frustra mactare nequivit  
 insidiis, patrias in pignora contulit iras  
 et, quos ipse sinu parvos gestaverat, una  
 occidit iuvenes inhumataque corpora vulgo 395  
 dispulit et tumulo cognatas arcuit umbras  
 naturamque simul fratremque hominemque cruentus  
 exuit et tenuem caesis invidit harenam.  
 hoc facinus refugo damnavit sole Mycenae  
 avertitque diem; scelere sed reddidit Atreus 400  
 126

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

the Sygambri come with allied fleet. Let trembling Africa now have experience of the dwellers on Rhine's banks. Or shall I sit here and submit to such disgrace? Shall I relinquish, now that I am a man, what I ruled and governed as a boy? Twice my father hurried to the Alps to defend another's realm. Am I to be an easy prey, an object of scorn?"

He ended and Stilicho thus made answer: "Wilt thou, an emperor, deign to challenge a Moor to fight? Is that coward to have the consolation of death in battle at thy hand? Shall Honorius fight on our side and Gildo on the other? Ere that, chaos shall plunge the stars into Hell. 'Tis enough to command his punishment. Thy name shall strike greater terror into him than thy sword. Presence will minish awe; he who stands in the lists admits equality, and struggling hosts regard not majesty. Listen and I will tell thee something at once more profitable for thyself and of more effect against the enemy. Gildo has a brother of like descent but unlike in character, Mascezel, who, avoiding the evil courses of his brother, has entrusted his hopes and his life to thy keeping. When Gildo, after many vain attempts, found no means to kill Mascezel, he turned his anger from the father to the children and slew those whom himself had nursed as infants in his arms; then cast aside their unburied bodies and refused sepulchre to the shades of those that had been his kin. The bloody tyrant stifled all natural feelings, forgot he was a brother, forgot he was a man, and begrudged the slain a handful of dust. 'Twas a like deed brought its ill repute upon Mycenae, that put the sun to rout and turned back the day. But while Atreus paid back crime for crime and had excuse

## CLAUDIAN

crimen et infandas excusat coniuge mensas.  
 hic odium, non poena fuit. te perdita iura,  
 te pater ultorem, te nudi pulvere manes,  
 te pietas polluta rogat ; si flentibus aram  
 et proprium miseris numen statuistis, Athenae, 405  
 si Pandionias planctu traxere phalanges  
 Inachides belloque rogos meruere maritis,  
 si maesto squalore comae lacrimisque senatum  
 in Numidas pulsus solio commovit Adherbal :  
 hunc quoque nunc Gildo, tanto quem funere mersit,  
 hunc doleat venisse ducem seseque minorem 411  
 supplicibus sciat esse tuis. quem sede fugavit,  
 hunc praeceps fugiat, fregit quem clade, tremiscat  
 agnoscatque suum, trahitur dum victima, fratrem."

Haec ubi sederunt genero, notissima Marti 415  
 robor, praecipuos electa pube maniplos  
 disponit portuque rates instaurat Etrusco.  
 Herculeam suus Alcides Ioviamque cohortem  
 rex ducit superum, premitur nec signifer ullo  
 pondere : festinant adeo vexilla moveri. 420  
 Nervius insequitur meritusque vocabula Felix  
 dictaque ab Augusto legio nomenque probantes  
 invicti clipeoque animosi teste Leones.

Dictis ante tamen princeps confirmat ituros

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<sup>1</sup> A reference to the support given by Theseus, King of Athens, to Adrastus, King of Argos, when the Thebans had refused to allow the burial of the Argives slain at Thebes ; cf. Eur. *Supplices*.

<sup>2</sup> Orosius (vii. 36. 6) says Mascezel only had 5000 men. The legion may have been leg. viii. Augusta. The other names are those of various *numeri* (the unit of the post-Diocletianic army).

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

for the bloody banquet in the unfaithfulness of his wife, Gildo's motive was hatred, not vengeance. Violated rights, the sorrowing father, the unburied dead, the unnatural crime all call upon thee as avenger. If thou, Athens, didst dedicate an altar to the sorrowing and ordain to those that mourn a special deity, if the women of Argos won to their aid the Athenian phalanx by their tears and bought burial for their slain lords at the price of war;<sup>1</sup> if Adherbal, driven from his throne, roused the Senate against the Numidians by the sad appeal of unkempt locks and by his tears, then let Gildo be sorry that now this man also whom he has crushed by so many murders is come into the field against him, and let him learn that he must bow before thy suppliants. Let Gildo flee headlong before him whom he put to flight and fear him whom he o'erwhelmed with the murder of his children. As he is being dragged off to the slaughter let him recognize his brother's hand."

When this advice had been accepted by his son-in-law, Stilicho made ready for war the most famous regiments in the army, selecting therefrom special companies of picked men; he further prepared the fleet in the harbours of Etruria. Alcides himself commands the Herculean cohort; the king of the gods leads the Jovian. No standard-bearer feels the weight of his eagle, so readily do the very standards press forward. The Nervian cohort follows and the Felix, well deserving its name, the legion, too, named after Augustus, that well called The Unconquered, and the brave regiment of the Lion<sup>2</sup> to whose name their shields bear witness.

But before they start the emperor, standing upon a platform of earth, heartens them with his words :

## CLAUDIAN

aggere conspicuus ; stat circumfusa iuventus      425  
 nixa hastis pronasque ferox accommodat aures :  
 “ Gildonem domitura manus, promissa minasque  
 tempus agi. si quid pro me doluistis, in armis  
 ostentate mihi ; iusto magnoque triumpho  
 civiles abolete notas ; sciat orbis Eous      430  
 sitque palam Gallos causa, non robore vinci.  
 nec vos, barbariem quamvis collegerit omnem,  
 terreat. an Mauri fremitum raucosque repulsus  
 umbonum et vestros passuri comminus enses ?  
 non contra clipeis tectos gladiisque micantes      435  
 ibitis : in solis longe fiducia telis.  
 exarmatus erit, cum missile torserit, hostis.  
 dextra movet iaculum, praetentat pallia laeva ;  
 cetera nudus eques. sonipes ignarus habenae ;  
 virga regit. non ulla fides, non agminis ordo :      440  
 arma oneri, fuga praesidio. conubia mille ;  
 non illis generis nexus, non pignora curae :  
 sed numero languet pietas. haec copia vulgi.  
 umbratus dux ipse rosis et marcidus ibit  
 unguentis crudusque cibo titubansque Lyaeo,      445  
 confectus senio, morbis stuprisque solutus.  
 excitet incestos turmalis bucina somnos,  
 imploret citharas cantatricesque choreas  
 offensus stridore tubae discatque coactus,  
 quas vigilat Veneri, castris impendere noctes.      450

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<sup>1</sup> He appeals to the Gallic element of the army to atone for its previous support of Maximus and Eugenius.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

leaning upon their spears the soldiers throng around him and attune their ready ears to his inspiring voice. "My men, so soon to bring defeat upon Gildo, now is the time to fulfil your promises and make good your threats. If you felt indignation on my behalf, now take up arms and prove it. Wash out the stain of civil war by means of a great and deserved triumph. Let the empire of the East know, let it be plain to all the world, that Gaul can only owe defeat to the badness of a cause, not to her enemies' strength.<sup>1</sup> Let not Gildo affright you though he have all barbarity at his back. Shall Moors stand up against the shock of your clashing shields and the near threat of your swords? You shall not oppose men armed with shields or shining blades. These savages put their trust in javelins hurled from afar. Once he has discharged his missile the enemy will be disarmed. With his right hand he hurls his spear, with his left he holds his cloak before him; no other armour has the horseman. His steed knows not the rein; a whip controls it. Obedience and discipline are unknown in their ranks. Their arms are a burden to them, their salvation lies in flight. Though each has many wives, ties of family bind them not, nor have they any love for their children whose very number causes affection to fail. Such are the troops. The chief will come to battle crowned with roses, drenched with scents, his last feast still undigested; drunken with wine, foredone with eld, enervated with disease and venery. Let the war trumpet rouse him from a bed of incest, let him beg aid of lutes and choirs, for he likes not the clarion's note, and let him learn (all unwilling) to spend in war nights that he now dedicates to love.



## CLAUDIAN

“ Nonne mori satius, vitae quam ferre pudorem ?  
 nam quae iam regio restat, si dedita Mauris  
 regibus Illyricis accesserit Africa damnis ?  
 ius Latium, quod tunc Meroë Rubroque solebat  
 Oceano cingi, Tyrrhena clauditur unda ; 455  
 et cui non Nilus, non intulit India metas,  
 Romani iam finis erit Trinacria regni.  
 ite recepturi, praedo quem sustulit, axem  
 ereptumque Notum ; caput insuperabile rerum  
 aut ruet in vestris aut stabit Roma lacertis. 460  
 tot mihi debetis populos, tot rura, tot urbes  
 amissas. uno Libyam defendite bello.  
 vestros imperium remos et vestra sequatur  
 carbasa. despectas trans aequora ducite leges.  
 tertia iam solito cervix mucrone rotetur 465  
 tandem funereis finem positura tyrannis.”

Omina conveniunt dicto fulvusque Tonantis  
 armiger a liquida cunctis spectantibus aethra  
 correptum pedibus curvis innexuit hydrum,  
 dumque reluctantem morsu partitur obunco, 470  
 haesit in ungue caput ; truncatus decedit anguis.  
 ilicet auguriis alacres per saxa citati  
 torrentesque ruunt ; nec mons aut silva retardat :  
 pendula ceu parvis moturae bella colonis  
 ingenti clangore grues aestiva relinquunt 475  
 Thracia, cum tepido permutant Strymona Nilo :  
 ordinibus variis per nubila textitur ales  
 littera pennarumque notis conscribitur aër.

Ut fluctus tetigere maris, tunc acrior arsit

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<sup>1</sup> The other two being Maximus and Eugenius.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* the Greek Λ.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

“Is not death preferable to a life disgraced? If, in addition to the loss of Illyria, Africa is to be surrendered to Moorish kings, what lands still remain to us? The empire of Italy, once bounded by the Nile and the Red Sea, is limited to-day by the sea of Tuscany; shall Sicily now be the most distant province of Roman rule, to which in days of old neither Egypt nor India set an end? Go: win back that southern realm a rebel has reft from me. It depends on your arms whether Rome, the unconquerable mistress of the world, stands or falls. You owe me so many peoples, countries, cities lost. Fight but one battle in defence of Libya. Let empire restored attend on your oars and sails. Give back to Africa the laws of Rome she now disregards. Let history repeat itself, and the sword smite from its trunk the head of this third tyrant<sup>1</sup> and so end at last the series of bloody usurpers.”

An omen confirms his word and before the eyes of all, the tawny bird, armour-bearer of Jove, swoops down from the open sky and seizes a snake in his curved talons; and while the eagle tears his struggling prey with his hooked beak, his claws are embedded in its head. The severed body falls to earth. Straightway the soldiers come hurrying up, crossing rocks and streams in their eagerness at the call of this portent. Neither mountains nor woods delay them. Even as the cranes leave their summer home of Thrace clamorously to join issue in doubtful war with the Pygmies, when they desert the Strymon for warm-watered Nile, the letter<sup>2</sup> traced by the speeding line stands out against the clouds and the heaven is stamped with the figure of their flight.

When they reached the coast still fiercer blazed

## CLAUDIAN

impetus ; adripiunt naves ipsique rudentes 480  
 expediunt et vela legunt et cornua summis  
 adsociant malis ; quatitur Tyrrhena tumultu  
 ora nec Alpheae capiunt navalia Pisae :  
 sic Agamemnoniam vindex cum Graecia classem  
 solveret, innumeris fervebat vocibus Aulis. 485  
 non illos strepitus impendentisque procellae  
 signa nec adventus dubii deterruit Austri.  
 “ vellite ” proclamant “ socii, iam vellite funem.  
 per vada Gildonem quamvis adversa petamus.  
 ad bellum nos trudat hiems per devia ponti. 490  
 quassatis cupio tellurem figere rostris.  
 heu nimium segnes, cauta qui mente notatis,  
 si revolant mergi, graditur si litore cornix.  
 ora licet maculis adperserit occiduus sol  
 lunaque conceptis livescat turgida Cauris 495  
 et contusa vagos iaculentur sidera crines ;  
 imbris umescant Haedi nimbosaque Taurum  
 ducat Hyas totusque fretis descendat Orion :  
 certa fides caeli, sed maior Honorius auctor ;  
 illius auspiciis inmensa per aequora miles, 500  
 non Plaustris Arctove regor. contemne Booten,  
 navita, turbinibus mediis permitte carinas.  
 si mihi tempestas Libyam ventique negabunt,  
 Augusti Fortuna dabit.”

Iam classis in altum

provehitur ; dextra Ligures, Etruria laeva 505  
 linquitur et caecis vitatur Corsica saxis.  
 humanae specie plantae se magna figurat  
 insula (Sardiniam veteres dixere coloni),  
 dives ager frugum, Poenos Italosve petenti  
 134

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

their enthusiasm. They seize upon the ships and themselves make ready the hawsers ; furl the sails and fix the yards to the masts. Etruria's shore is shaken with their uproar and Arcadian-founded Pisa cannot contain so great a number of ships. So Aulis rang with countless voices what time avenging Greece loosed the cables of Agamemnon's fleet. No storm-blast deterred them nor threat of coming tempest nor the presence of the treacherous south wind. "Seize the rope, fellow-soldiers," they cry, "seize the rope : let us sail against Gildo though the very seas be against us. Let the storm drive us to battle by how crooked so ever a course. Fain would I seize upon that shore though my ships' beaks be shattered. Cowards ye, who cautiously observe whether or no the sea-gulls fly back or the crow pace the beach. What if clouds fleck the face of the setting sun or a stormy moon wear the halo that betokens hurricane? What if comets wave their spreading tails, or the constellation of the Kids threatens rain, or the cloudy Hyades lead forth the Bull and all Orion sink 'neath the waves? Put your trust in the sky, but put more in Honorius. Beneath his auspices I, his soldier, range the boundless seas nor look to the Plough or the Bear to guide me. Make no account of Boötes, sailor; launch your bark in mid tempest. If winds and storms deny me Libya, my emperor's fortune will grant it."

The fleet is launched. They pass Liguria on their left hand, Etruria on their right, avoiding the sunken reefs of Corsica. There lies an island formed like a human foot (Sardinia its former inhabitants called it), an island rich in the produce of its fields, and conveniently situated for them who sail either to

## CLAUDIAN

opportuna situ : quae pars vicinior Afris, 510  
 plana solo, ratibus clemens ; quae respicit Arcton,  
 inmitis, scopulosa, procax subitisque sonora  
 flatibus ; insanos infamat navita montes.

hic hominum pecudumque lues, sic<sup>1</sup> pestifer aër  
 saevit et exclusis regnant Aquilonibus Austri. 515

Quos ubi luctatis procul effugere carinis,  
 per diversa ruunt sinuosae litora terrae.

pars adit antiqua ductos Carthagine Sulcos ;  
 partem litoreo complectitur Olbia muro.

urbs Libyam contra Tyrio fundata potenti 520

tenditur in longum Caralis tenuemque per undas

obvia dimittit fracturum flamina collem ;

efficitur portus medium mare, tutaque ventis  
 omnibus ingenti mansuescunt stagna recessu.

hanc omni petiere manu prorsique reductis 525

suspensa Zephyros expectant classe faventes.

<sup>1</sup> *Birt, following the MSS., si. Older editions huic . . .*  
*huic. I print sic*

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<sup>1</sup> This poem was never properly finished ; see Introduction, p. xi.

## THE WAR AGAINST GILDO, I

Africa or Italy. The part that faces Africa is flat and affords good anchorage for ships ; the northern shore is inhospitable, rock-bound, stormy, and loud with beating waves. The sailor curses these wild cliffs. Here the pestilence falls on men and beasts, so plague-ridden and deadly is the air, so omnipotent the South wind and the North winds banished.

When their much buffeted vessels had given a wide berth to these dangers, they came to land at different places on the broken coast-line. Some are beached at Sulci, a city founded by Carthage of old. The sea-wall of Olbia shelters others. The city of Caralis over against the coast of Libya, a colony of great Phoenician Carthage, juts out into the sea and extends into the waves, a little promontory that breaks the force of the opposing winds. Thus in the midst a harbour is found and in a huge bay the quiet waters lie safe from every wind. For this harbour they make with every effort, and reversing their vessels they await the favouring breezes of the west wind with fleet at anchor.<sup>1</sup>

## IN EUTROPIUM

### LIBER I

#### (XVIII)

Semiferos partus metuendaque pignora matri  
moenibus et mediis auditum nocte luporum  
murmur et attonito pecudes pastore locutas  
et lapidum duras hiemes nimboque minacem  
sanguineo rubuisse Iovem puteosque cruore 5  
mutatos visasque polo concurrere lunas  
et geminos soles mirari desinat orbis :  
omnia cesserunt eunucho consule monstra.  
heu terrae caelique pudor ! trabeata per urbes  
ostentatur anus titulumque effeminat anni. 10  
pandite pontifices Cumanae carmina vatis,  
fulmineos sollers Etruria consulat ignes  
inmersumque nefas fibris exploret haruspex,  
quae nova portendant superi. Nilusne meatu  
devius et nostri temptat iam transfuga mundi 15  
se Rubro miscere mari ? ruptone Niphate  
rursum barbaricis Oriens vastabitur armis ?  
an morbi ventura lues ? an nulla colono  
responsura seges ? quae tantas expiet iras  
victima ? quo diras iugulo placabimus aras ? 20

<sup>1</sup> For the consulship of Eutropius see Introduction, p. xv.

<sup>2</sup> A mountain in Armenia.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS

### BOOK I

#### (XVIII)

Let the world cease to wonder at the births of creatures half human, half bestial, at monstrous babes that affright their own mothers, at the howling of wolves heard by night in the cities, at beasts that speak to their astonished herds, at stones falling like rain, at the blood-red threatening storm clouds, at wells of water changed to gore, at moons that clash in mid heaven and at twin suns. All portents pale before our eunuch consul. O shame to heaven and earth ! Our cities behold an old woman decked in a consul's robe who gives a woman's name to the year.<sup>1</sup> Open the pages of the Cumæan Sibyl, ye pontifs ; let wise Etrurian seers consult the lightning's flash, and the soothsayer search out the awful portent hidden in the entrails. What new dread warning is this the gods give ? Does Nile desert his bed and leaving Roman soil seek to mix his waters with those of the Red Sea ? Does cleft Niphates<sup>2</sup> once more let through a host of eastern barbarians to ravage our lands ? Does a pestilence threaten us ? Or shall no harvest repay the farmer ? What victim can expiate divine anger such as this ? What offering appease the cruel altars ? The consul's



## CLAUDIAN

consule lustrandi fasces ipsoque litandum  
prodigio ; quodcumque parant hoc omine fata,  
Eutropius cervice luat sic omnia nobis.<sup>1</sup>

Hoc regni, Fortuna, tenes ? quaenam ista iocandi  
saevitia ? humanis quantum bacchabere rebus ? 25  
si tibi servili placuit foedare curules  
crimine, procedat laxata compede consul,  
rupta Quirinales sumant ergastula cinctus ;  
da saltem quemcumque virum. discrimina quaedam  
sunt famulis splendorque suus, maculamque minorem  
condicionis habet, domino qui vixerit uno. 31  
si pelagi fluctus, Libyae si discis harenas,  
Eutropii numerabis eros. quot iura, quot ille  
mutavit tabulas vel quanta vocabula vertit !  
nudatus quotiens, medicum dum consulit emptor, 35  
ne qua per occultum lateat iactura dolorem !  
omnes paenituit pretii venumque redibat,  
dum vendi potuit. postquam deforme cadaver  
mansit et in rugas totus defluxit aniles,  
iam specie doni certatim limine pellunt 40  
et foedum ignaris properant obtrudere munus.  
tot translata iugis summisit colla, vetustum  
servitium semperque novum, nec destitit umquam,  
saepe tamen coepit.

Cunabula prima cruentis

debet suppliciis ; rapitur castrandus ab ipso 45

<sup>1</sup> *Birt begins the new paragraph at sic, printing a comma at nobis. Alternatively, read volvis for nobis (so Cuiacius' codd.).*

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

own blood must cleanse the consular insignia, the monster itself must be sacrificed. Whatever it be that fate prepares for us and shows forth by such an omen, let Eutropius' death, I pray, avert it all.

Fortune, is thy power so all-embracing? What is this savage humour of thine? To what lengths wilt thou sport with us poor mortals? If it was thy will to disgrace the consul's chair with a servile occupant let some "consul" come forward with broken chains, let an escaped jail-bird don the robes of Quirinus—but at least give us a man. There are grades even among slaves and a certain dignity; that slave who has served but one master holds a position of less infamy. Canst thou count the waves of the sea, the grains of Africa's sands, if so thou canst number Eutropius' masters. How many owners has he had, in how many sale-catalogues has he appeared, how often has he changed his name! How often has he been stripped while buyer consulted doctor whether there lurked any flaw by reason of some hidden disease! All repented having bought him and he always returned to the slave-market while he could yet fetch a price. When he became but a foul corpse-like body, a mass of senile pendulous flesh, his masters were anxious to rid their houses of him by giving him away as a present and made haste to foist the loathsome gift on an unsuspecting friend. To so many different yokes did he submit his neck, this slave, old in years but ever new to the house; there was no end to his servitude though many beginnings.

He is destined from his very cradle to bloody tortures; straight from his mother's womb he is hurried away to be made a eunuch; no sooner born

## CLAUDIAN

ubere ; suscipiunt matris post viscera poenae.  
 advolat Armenius certo mucrone recisos  
 edoctus mollire mares damnoque nefandum  
 aucturus pretium ; fecundum corporis imbrem <sup>1</sup>  
 sedibus exhaurit geminis unoque sub ictu 50  
 eripit officium patris nomenque mariti.  
 ambiguus vitae iacuit, penitusque supremum  
 in cerebrum secti traxerunt frigora nervi.

Laudemusne manum, quae vires abstulit hosti,  
 an potius fato causam tribuisse queramur ? 55  
 profuerat mansisse virum ; felicior extat  
 opprobrio ; serviret adhuc, si fortior esset.

Inde per Assyriae trahitur commercia ripae ;  
 hinc fora venalis Galata ductore frequentat  
 permutatque domos varias ; quis nomina possit 60  
 tanta sequi ? miles stabuli Ptolomaeus in illis  
 notior : hic longo lassatus paelicis usu  
 donat Arinthaëo ; neque enim iam dignus haberi  
 nec maturus emi. cum fastiditus abiret,  
 quam gemit, quanto planxit divortia luctu ! 65  
 “ haec erat, heu, Ptolomaeae, fides ? hoc profuit aetas  
 in gremio consumpta tuo lectusque iugalis  
 et ducti totiens inter praesaepia somni ?  
 libertas promissa perit ? viduumne relinquis  
 Eutropium tantasque premunt obliviae noctes, 70  
 crudelis ? generis pro sors durissima nostri !  
 femina, cum senuit, retinet conubia partu,

<sup>1</sup> *codd. ignem ; Postgate imbrem*

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<sup>1</sup> I take Ptolemy to have been a *stationarius*, i.e. a servant in a public post-house, but there is possibly some covert allusion to *stabulum* in the sense of *prostibulum*, a brothel.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

than he becomes a prey to suffering. Up hastens the Armenian, skilled by operating with unerring knife to make males womanish and to increase their loathly value by such loss. He drains the body's life-giving fluid from its double source and with one blow deprives his victim of a father's function and the name of husband. Eutropius lay doubtful of life, and the severed sinews drew a numbness deep down into his furthest brain.

Are we to praise the hand that robbed an enemy of his strength? Or shall we rather blame the fates? It would have been better had he remained a man; his very disgrace has proved a blessing to him. Had he had his full manly vigour he would still have been a slave.

After this he is dragged from one Assyrian mart to another; next in the train of a Galatian slave-merchant he stands for sale in many a market and knows many diverse houses. Who could tell the names of all his buyers? Among these Ptolemy, servant of the post-house,<sup>1</sup> was one of the better known. Then Ptolemy, tired of Eutropius' long service to his lusts, gives him to Arinthaëus;—gives, for he is no longer worth keeping nor old enough to be bought. How the scorned minion wept at his departure, with what grief did he lament that divorce! "Was this thy fidelity, Ptolemy? Is this my reward for a youth lived in thine arms, for the bed of marriage and those many nights spent together in the inn? Must I lose my promised liberty? Leav'st thou Eutropius a widow, cruel wretch, forgetful of such wonderful nights of love? How hard is the lot of my kind! When a woman grows old her children cement the marriage tie and

## CLAUDIAN

uxorisque decus matris reverentia pensat.  
 nos Lucina fugit, nec pignore nitimur ullo.  
 cum forma dilapsus amor ; defloruit oris 75  
 gratia : qua miseri scapulas tutabimur arte ?  
 qua placeam ratione senex ? ”

Sic fatus acutum

adgreditur lenonis opus, nec segnis ad artem  
 mens erat officiique capax omnesque pudoris  
 hauserat insidias. custodia nulla tuendo 80  
 fida toro ; nulli poterant excludere vectes :  
 ille vel aerata Danaën in turre latentem  
 eliceret. fletus domini fingeat amantis,  
 indomitasque mora, pretio lenibat avaras  
 lascivasque iocis ; non blandior ullus euntis 85  
 ancillae tetigisse latus leviterque reductis  
 vestibus occulto crimen mandasse susurro  
 nec furtis quaesisse locum nec fraude reperta  
 cautior elusi fremitus vitare mariti.  
 haud aliter iuvenum flammis Ephyreia Lais 90  
 e gemino ditata mari ; cum certa refudit  
 canities, iam turba procax noctisque recedit  
 ambitus et raro pulsatur ianua tactu,  
 seque reformidat speculo damnante senectus ;  
 stat tamen atque alias succingit lena ministras 95  
 dilectumque diu quamvis longaeva lupanar  
 circuit et retinent mores, quod perdidit aetas.  
 144

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

a mother's dignity compensates for the lost charms of a wife. Me Lucina, goddess of childbirth, will not come near ; I have no children on whom to rely. Love perishes with my beauty ; the roses of my cheeks are faded. What wits can save my wretched back from blows ? How can I, an old man, please ? ”

So saying he entered upon the skilled profession of a pander. His whole heart was in his work ; he knew his business well and was master of every stratagem for the undoing of chastity. No amount of vigilance could protect the marriage-bed from his attack ; no bars could shut him out. He would have haled even Danaë from her refuge in the brazen tower. He would represent his patron as dying of love. Was the lady stubborn, he would win her by his patience ; was she greedy, by a gift ; flighty, he would corrupt her with a jest. None could arrest the attention of a maidservant with so neat a touch as he, none twitch aside a dress so lightly and whisper his shameful message in her ear. Never was any so skilled to choose a scene for the criminal meeting, or so clever at avoiding the wrath of the cuckold husband should the plot be discovered. One thought of Lais of Corinth, to whom the enamoured youth of that city brought wealth from its twin seas, who, when her grey hair could no longer go crowned with roses, when the emulous crowd of her admirers ceased nightly to haunt her doors and but few were left to knock thereat, when before the mirror's verdict age shrank back in horror from itself, yet stood, still faithful to her calling, and as a pander dressed others for the part, haunting still the brothel she had loved so well and so long, and still pandering to the tastes old age forbade her.

## CLAUDIAN

Hinc honor Eutropio ; cumque omnibus unica  
virtus

esset in eunuchis thalamos servare pudicos,  
solus adulteriis crevit. nec verbera tergo      100  
cessavere tamen, quotiens decepta libido  
irati caluisset eri, frustra que rogantem  
iactantemque suos tot iam per lustra labores  
dotalem genero nutritoremque puellae  
tradidit. Eous rector consulque futurus      105  
pectebat dominae crines et saepe lavanti  
nudus in argento lympham gestabat alumnae.  
et cum se rapido fessam proiecerat aestu,  
patricius roseis pavonum ventilat alis.

Iamque aevo laxata cutis, sulcisque genarum      110  
corruerat passa facies rugosior uva :  
flava minus presso finduntur vomere rura,  
nec vento sic vela tremunt. miserabile turpes  
exedere caput tineae ; deserta patebant  
intervalla comae : qualis sitientibus arvis      115  
arida ieiunae seges interlucet aristae  
vel qualis gelidis pluma labente pruinis  
arboris inmoritur trunco brumalis hirundo.  
scilicet ut trabeis iniuria cresceret olim,  
has in fronte notas, hoc dedecus addidit oris      120  
luxuriae Fortuna suae : cum pallida nudis  
ossibus horrorem dominis praeberet imago  
decolor et macies occursu laederet omnes,

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

Hence sprang Eutropius' fame ; for, though a eunuch's one virtue be to guard the chastity of the marriage-chamber, here was one (and one only) who grew great through adulteries. But the lash fell as before on his back whenever his master's criminal passion was through him frustrated. Then it was in vain that he prayed for forgiveness and reminded his lord of all those years of faithful service ; he would find himself handed over to a son-in-law as part of the bride's dowry. Thus he would become a lady's-maid, and so the future consul and governor of the East would comb his mistress' locks or stand naked holding a silver vessel of water wherein his charge could wash herself. And when overcome by the heat she threw herself upon her couch, there would stand this patrician fanning her with bright peacock feathers.

And now his skin had grown loose with age ; his face, more wrinkled than a raisin, had fallen in by reason of the lines in his cheeks. Less deep the furrows cloven in the cornfield by the plough, the folds wrought in the sails by the wind. Loathsome grubs ate away his head and bare patches appeared amid his hair. It was as though clumps of dry, barren corn dotted a sun-parched field, or as if a swallow were dying in winter sitting on a branch, moulting in the frosty weather. Truly, that the outrage to the consul's office might one day be the greater, Fortune added to her gift of wealth this brand upon his brow, this deformity of face. When his pallor and fleshless bones had roused feelings of revulsion in his masters' hearts, and his foul complexion and lean body offended all who came



## CLAUDIAN

aut pueris latura metus aut taedia mensis  
 aut crimen famulis aut procedentibus omen, 125  
 et nihil exhausto caperent in stipite lucri :  
 (sternere quippe toros vel caedere ligna culinae  
 membra negant ; aurum, vestes, arcana tueri  
 mens infida vetat ; quis enim committere vellet  
 lenoni thalamum ?) : tandem ceu funus acerbum 130  
 infaustamque suis trusere penatibus umbram.  
 contemptu iam liber erat : sic pastor obesum  
 lacte canem ferroque ligat pascitque revinctum,  
 dum validus servare gregem vigilique rapaces  
 latratu terrere lupos ; cum tardior idem 135  
 iam scabie laceras deiecit sordidus aures,  
 solvit et exuto lucratur vincula collo.

Est ubi despectus nimius iuvat. undique pulso  
 per cunctas licuit fraudes impune vagari  
 et fatis aperire viam. pro quisquis Olympi 140  
 summa tenes, tanto libuit mortalia risu  
 vertere ? qui servi non est admissus in usum,  
 suscipitur regnis, et quem privata ministrum  
 dedignata domus, moderantem sustinet aula.  
 ut primum vetulam texere palatia vulpem, 145  
 quis non ingemuit ? quis non inrepere sacris  
 obsequiis doluit totiens venale cadaver ?  
 ipsi quin etiam tali consorte fremebant  
 regales famuli, quibus est inlustrior ordo  
 servitii, sociumque diu sprevere superbi. 150

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

in contact with him, scaring children, disgusting those that sat at meat, disgracing his fellow-slaves, or terrifying as with an evil omen those that met him; when his masters ceased to derive any advantage from that withered trunk (for his wasted limbs refused even to make the beds or cut wood for the kitchen fire, while his faithless nature forbade their entrusting him with the charge of gold or vesture or the secrets of the house—who could bring him to entrust his marriage-chamber to a pander?), then at last they thrust him from their houses like a troublesome corpse or an ill-omened ghost. He was now free—for everyone despised him. So a shepherd chains up a dog and fattens him with milk while yet his strength avails to guard the flock and, ever watchful, to scare away wolves with his barking. But when later this same dog grows old and dirty and droops his mangy ears he looses him, and, taking off his collar, at least saves that.

Universal contempt is sometimes a boon. Driven out by all, he could freely range amid every sort of crime, and open a way for destiny. Oh thou, whosoe'er thou art, that holdest sway in Olympus, was it thy humour to make such mockery of mankind? He who was not suffered to perform the duties of a slave is admitted to the administration of an empire; him whom a private house scorned as a servant, a palace tolerates as its lord. When first the consular residence received this old vixen, who did not lament? Who grieved not to see an oft-sold corpse worm itself into the sacred service of the emperor? Nay, the very palace-servants, holding a prouder rank in slavery, murmured at such a colleague and long haughtily scorned his company.

## CLAUDIAN

Cernite, quem Latiis poscant adnectere fastis :  
 cuius et eunuchos puduit ! sed vilior ante  
 obscurae latuit pars ignotissima turbae,  
 donec Abundanti furiis—qui rebus Eois  
 exitium primumque sibi produxit—ab imis 155  
 evectus thalamis summos invasit honores.  
 quam bene dispositum terris, ut dignus iniqui  
 fructus consilii primis auctoribus instet.  
 sic multos fluvio vates arente per annos  
 hospite qui caeso monuit placare Tonantem, 160  
 inventas primus Busiridis imbuit aras  
 et cecidit saevi, quod dixerat, hostia sacri.  
 sic opifex tauri tormentorumque repertor,  
 qui funesta novo fabricaverat aera dolori,  
 primus inexpertum Siculo cogente tyranno 165  
 sensit opus docuitque suum mugire iuvencom.  
 nullius Eutropius, quam qui se protulit, ante  
 direptas possedit opes nullumque priorem  
 perculit exilio solumque hoc rite peregit,  
 auctorem damnare suum.

Postquam obsitus aevo 170

semivir excelsam rerum sublatus in arcem,  
 quod nec vota pati nec fingere somnia possunt,  
 vidit sub pedibus leges subiectaque colla  
 nobilium tantumque sibi permittere fata,  
 qui nihil optasset plus libertate mereri, 175

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<sup>1</sup> By birth a Scythian. Entered the Roman army under Gratian and reached the position of *magister utriusque militiae* under Theodosius. Consul in 393 (Zosim. v. 10. 5)  
 150

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

See what manner of man they seek to connect with the annals of Rome : the very eunuchs were ashamed of him. At first of no account, he lay hid, the most unknown unit of an unregarded throng, till thanks to the mad folly of Abundantius<sup>1</sup> (who brought ruin on the empire of the East and, ere that, upon himself) he was advanced from the most menial office to the highest honours. What a happy dispensation of providence it is that in this world the results of ill counsel fall first upon its instigators ! Thus the seer who advised Busiris to placate the Thunderer's wrath, what time Nile's flood had long run dry, with a stranger's blood himself first stained that tyrant's altar with his own and fell a victim of the horrid sacrifice he had advised. Thus he who made the brazen bull and devised that new form of torture, casting the deadly bronze as an instrument of torment, was (at the bidding of the Sicilian tyrant) the first to make trial of the unhanselled image, and to teach his own bull to roar. So with Eutropius : on no man's goods did he sooner seize than on those of him by whom he had been raised to power ; none did he drive sooner into exile and thus, by the condemnation of his patron, was to thank for one righteous action.

When this half-man, worn out with age, had been raised to that pinnacle of glory for which he never would have dared to pray, of which never to dream ; when he had seen law at his feet, the heads of the nobility inclined before him, and fortune heaping such gifts upon one whose only hope and prayer had been to gain his freedom, he straightway forgot and banished three years later to Pityus, thanks to the machinations of Eutropius.

## CLAUDIAN

iamiam dissimulat dominos alteque tumescunt  
serviles animi. procerum squalore repletus  
carcer et exilibus Meroë campique gemescunt  
Aethiopum ; poenis hominum plaga personat ardens ;  
Marmaricus claris violatur caedibus Hammon. 180

Asperius nihil est humili cum surgit in altum :  
cuncta ferit dum cuncta timet, desaevit in omnes  
ut se posse putent, nec belua taetrior ulla  
quam servi rabies in libera terga furentis ;  
agnoscit gemitus et poenae parcere nescit, 185  
quam subiit, dominique memor, quem verberat, odit.  
adde, quod eunuchus nulla pietate movetur  
nec generi natisve cavet. clementia cunctis  
in similes, animosque ligant consortia damni ;  
iste nec eunuchis placidus.

Sed peius in aurum 190  
aestuat ; hoc uno fruitur succisa libido.  
quid nervos secuisse iuvat ? vis nulla cruentam  
castrat avaritiam. parvis exercita furtis  
quae vastare penum neglectaque sueverat arcae  
claustra remoliri, nunc uberiore rapina 195  
peccat in orbe manus. quidquid se Tigris ab Haemo  
dividit, hoc certa proponit merce locandum  
institor imperii, caupo famosus honorum.  
hic Asiam villa pactus regit ; ille redemit  
coniugis ornatu Syriam ; dolet ille paterna 200  
Bithynos mutasse domo. subfixa patenti  
vestibulo pretiis distinguit regula gentes :  
152

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

his former masters, and his slave's mind swelled high within him. The prisons were filled with degraded nobles, Meroë and the plains of Ethiopia re-echoed to the weeping of exiles ; the desert rang with the punishment of men ; the temple of Jupiter Ammon in Africa was stained with gentle blood.

Nothing is so cruel as a man raised from lowly station to prosperity ; he strikes everything, for he fears everything ; he vents his rage on all, that all may deem he has the power. No beast so fearful as the rage of a slave let loose on free-born backs ; their groans are familiar to him, and he cannot be sparing of punishment that he himself has undergone ; remembering his own master he hates the man he lashes. Being a eunuch also he is moved by no natural affection and has no care for family or children. All are moved to pity by those whose circumstances are like their own ; similitude of ills is a close bond. Yet he is kind not even to eunuchs.

His passion for gold increases—the only passion his mutilated body can indulge. Of what use was emasculation ? The knife is powerless against reckless avarice. That hand so well practised in petty thefts, accustomed to rifle a cupboard or remove the bolt from the unwatched coffer, now finds richer spoils and the whole world to rob. All the country between the Tigris and Mount Haemus he exposes for sale at a fixed price, this huckster of empire, this infamous dealer in honours. This man governs Africa for the which his villa has paid. That man buys Syria with his wife's jewels. Another repents of having taken Bithynia in exchange for his paternal mansion. Fixed above the open doors of his hall is a list giving the provinces and their

## CLAUDIAN

tot Galatae, tot Pontus eat, tot Lydia nummis ;  
 si Lyciam tenuisse velis, tot millia ponas,  
 si Phrygas, adde ; parum ! propriae solacia sorti 205  
 communes vult esse notas et venditus ipse  
 vendere cuncta cupit. certantum saepe duorum  
 diversum suspendit onus ; cum pondere iudex  
 vergit, et in geminas nutat provincia lances.

Non pudet heu, superi, populos venire sub hasta ?  
 vendentis certe pudeat, quod iure sepultum 211  
 mancipium tot regna tenet, tot distrahit urbes.  
 pollentem solio Croesum victoria Cyri  
 fregit, ut eunucho flueret Pactolus et Hermus ?  
 Attalus heredem voluit te, Roma, relinqui, 215  
 restitit Antiochus praescripto margine Tauri,  
 indomitos curru Servilius egit Isauros  
 et Pharos Augusto iacuit vel Creta Metello,  
 ne non Eutropio quaestus numerosior esset ?  
 in mercem veniunt Cilices, Iudaea, Sophene 220  
 Romanusque labor Pompeianique triumphus.

Quo struis hos auri cumulos ? quae pignora tantis  
 succedent opibus ? nubas ducasve licebit :  
 numquam mater eris, numquam pater ; hoc tibi  
 ferrum,  
 hoc natura negat. te grandibus India gemmis, 225  
 te foliis Arabes ditent, te vellere Seres :  
 nullus inops adeo, nullum sic urget egestas,  
 ut velit Eutropii fortunam et membra pacisci.

Iamque oblita sui nec sobria divitiis mens

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<sup>1</sup> Attalus, King of Pergamum, left his kingdom by will to Rome, 133 B.C. It became the province of Asia. The terms mentioned here were imposed on Antiochus, King of Syria, in 189 B.C. P. Servilius crossed the Taurus and subdued the Isauri 78 B.C. ; Crete was conquered by Q. Metellus between 68 and 66 B.C.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

prices : so much for Galatia, for Pontus so much, so much will buy one Lydia. Would you govern Lycia? Then lay down so many thousands. Phrygia? A little more. He wishes everything to be marked with its price to console him for his own fortune and, himself so often sold, he wants to sell everything. When two are rivals he suspends in the balance their opposed payment ; along with the weight the judge inclines, and a province hangs wavering in a pair of scales.

Ye gods, are ye not ashamed that whole peoples are sold beneath the hammer? At least let it shame you of the seller, when a slave, a chattel the law counts dead, possesses so many kingdoms and retails so many cities. Did Cyrus' victory oust mighty Croesus from his throne that Pactolus and Hermus should roll their waves for a eunuch? Did Attalus make you, Rome, his heir, was Antiochus confined within the appointed bounds of Taurus, did Servilius enjoy a triumph over the hitherto unconquered Isaurians, did Egypt fall before Augustus, and Crete before Metellus, to ensure Eutropius a sufficient income?<sup>1</sup> Cilicia, Judaea, Sophene, all Rome's labours and Pompey's triumphs, are there to sell.

Why heap up these riches? Hast thou children to succeed to them? Marry or be married, thou canst never be a mother or a father : the former nature hath denied thee, the latter the surgeon's knife. India may enrich thee with enormous jewels, Arabia with her spices, China with her silks ; none so needy, none so poverty-stricken as to wish to have Eutropius' fortune and therewith Eutropius' body.

And now his mind, forgetful of its true nature and



## CLAUDIAN

in miseras leges hominumque negotia ludit. 230  
 iudicat eunuchus ; quid iam de consule miror ?  
 prodigium, quodcumque gerit. quae pagina lites  
 sic actas meminit ? quibus umquam saecula terris  
 eunuchi videre forum ? sed ne qua vacaret  
 pars ignominia neu quid restaret inausum, 235  
 arma etiam violare parat portentaque monstris  
 aggerat et secum petulans amentia certat.  
 erubuit Mavors aversaque risit Enyo  
 dedecus Eoum, quotiens intenta sagittis  
 et pharetra fulgens anus exercetur Amazon 240  
 arbiter aut quotiens belli pacisque recurrit  
 adloquiturque Getas. gaudet cum viderit hostis  
 et sentit iam deesse viros. incendia fumant,  
 muris nulla fides, squalent populatibus agri  
 et medio spes sola mari. trans Phasin aguntur 245  
 Cappadocum matres, stabulisque abducta paternis  
 Caucasias captiva bibunt armenta pruinas  
 et Scythicis mutant Argaei pabula silvis.  
 extra Cimmerias, Taurorum claustra, paludes  
 flos Syriae servit. spoliis nec sufficit atrox 250  
 barbarus : in caedem vertunt fastidia praedae.  
 Ille tamen (quid enim servum mollemque pudebit ?  
 aut quid in hoc poterit vultu flagrare ruboris ?)  
 pro victore redit : peditum vexilla sequuntur  
 et turmae similes eunuchorumque manipuli, 255  
 Hellespontiacis legio dignissima signis.  
 obviis ire cliens defensoremque reversum  
 complecti. placet ipse sibi laxasque laborat

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<sup>1</sup> A mountain in Cappadocia.

<sup>2</sup> Claudian is scarcely fair to Eutropius. The reference here is to the campaign of 398 in which Eutropius succeeded in driving the Huns back behind the Caucasus.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

drunken with riches, makes sport of wretched law and the affairs of men. A eunuch is judge. Why now wonder that he is consul? Whatever he does is a prodigy. Can the annals of the law show cases so mishandled? What age or what country has ever witnessed a eunuch's jurisdiction? That nought might remain undisgraced, nought unattempted, he even makes him ready to outrage arms, heaps portent on portent and wanton folly seeks to outdo itself. Mars blushed, Bellona scoffed and turned her from the disgrace of the East whene'er with arrows strung and flashing quiver the aged Amazon practises battle or hurries back as arbiter of peace and war to hold parley with the Getae. Our enemies rejoiced at the sight and felt that at last we were lacking in *men*. Towns were set ablaze; walls offered no security. The countryside was ravaged and brought to ruin. Mid-ocean alone gave hope. Women of Cappadocia were driven into captivity across the river Phasis; stolen from the stalls of their homesteads, the captive herds drink the snowy streams of Caucasus, and the flocks exchange the pastures of Mount Argæus<sup>1</sup> for the woods of Scythia. Beyond the Cimmerian marshes, defence of the Tauric tribes, the youth of Syria are slaves. Too vast for the fierce barbarians are the spoils; glutted with booty they turn to slaughter.

Yet Eutropius (can a slave, an effeminate, feel shame? Could a blush grace such a countenance?), Eutropius returns in triumph. There follow companies of foot, squadrons like their general, maniples of eunuchs, an army worthy Priapus' standards. His creatures meet him and embrace their saviour on his return.<sup>2</sup> Great is his self-esteem; he struggles

## CLAUDIAN

distendisse genas fictumque inflatus anhelat,  
 pulvere respersus tineas et solibus ora 260  
 pallidior, verbisque sonat plorabile quiddam  
 ultra nequitiam fractis et proelia narrat :  
 perque suam tremula testatur voce sororem,  
 defecisse vagas ad publica commoda vires ;  
 cedere livori nec sustentare procellas 265  
 invidiae ; mergique fretis spumantibus orat.  
 exoretque utinam ! dum talia fatur ineptus,  
 deterget lacrimas atque inter singula dicta  
 flebile suspirat : qualis venit arida socrus  
 longinquam visura nurum ; vix lassa resedit 270  
 et iam vina petit.

Quid te, turpissime, bellis

inseris aut saevi pertemptas Pallada campi ?  
 tu potes alterius studiis haerere Minervae  
 et telas, non tela pati, tu stamina nosse,  
 tu segnes operum sollers urgere puellas 275  
 et niveam dominae pensis involvere lanam.  
 vel, si sacra placent, habeas pro Marte Cybeben ;  
 rauca Celaenaeos ad tympana disce furores.  
 cymbala ferre licet pectusque inlidere pinu  
 inguinis et reliquum Phrygiis abscidere cultris. 280  
 arma relinque viris. geminam quid dividis aulam  
 conarisque pios odiis committere fratres ?  
 te magis, ah demens, veterem si respicis artem,  
 conciliare decet.

Gestis pro talibus annum

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

to swell out his pendulous cheeks and feigns a heavy panting ; his lousy head dust-sprinkled and his face bleached whiter by the sun, he sobs out some pitiful complaint with voice more effeminate than effeminacy's self and tells of battles. In tremulous tones he calls his sister to witness that he has spent his strength for his country's need ; that he yields to envy and cannot stand up against the storms of jealousy and prays to be drowned in the foaming seas. Would God his prayer had been granted ! Thus speaking, he wipes away the silly tears, sighing and sobbing between each word ; like a withered old dame travelled far to visit her son's daughter—scarce seated aweary and already she asks for wine.

Why busy thy foul self with wars ? Why attempt battle on the bloody field ? 'Tis to the arts of that other Minerva thou shouldst apply thyself. The distaff, not the dart should be thine ; thine to spin the thread, and, cunning craftsman that thou art, to urge on the spinning-maids when lazy ; thine to wind the snowy wool for thy mistress' weaving. Or, wouldst thou be a devotee, let Cybele, not Mars, be the object of thy worship. Learn to imitate the madness of the Corybantes to the accompaniment of rolling drums. Thou mayest carry cymbals, pierce thy breast with the sacred pine, and with Phrygian knife destroy what yet is left of thy virility. Leave arms to men. Why seek to divide the two empires and embroil loving brothers in strife ? Madman, remember thy former trade ; 'twere more fitting thou shouldst endeavour to reconcile them.

It is for deeds like this that Eutropius demands

## CLAUDIAN

flagitet Eutropius, ne quid non polluat unus, 285  
dux acies, iudex praetoria, tempora consul !

Nil adeo foedum, quod non exacta vetustas  
ediderit longique labor commiserit aevi.  
Oedipodes matrem, natam duxisse Thyestes  
cantatur, peperit fratres Iocasta marito 290  
et Pelopea sibi. Thebas ac funera Troiae  
tristis Erechthei deplorat scaena theatri.  
in volucrem Tereus, Cadmus se vertit in anguem.  
Scylla novos mirata canes. hunc arbore figit,  
elevat hunc pluma, squamis hunc fabula vestit, 295  
hunc solvit fluvio. numquam spado consul in orbe  
nec iudex ductorve fuit ! quodcumque virorum  
est decus, eunuchi scelus est. exempla creantur  
quae socci superent risus luctusque cothurni.

Quam pulcher conspectus erat, cum tenderet artus  
exangues onerante toga cinctuque gravatus 301  
indutoque senex obscaenior iret in auro :  
humani qualis simulator simius oris,  
quem puer adridens pretioso stamine Serum  
velavit nudasque nates ac terga reliquit, 305  
ludibrium mensis ; erecto pectore dives  
ambulat et claro sese deformat amictu.  
candida pollutos comitatur curia fasces,  
forsitan et dominus. praebet miracula lictor

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Emperor.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

this year of office, to ensure that by his efforts alone he leaves nothing not dishonoured, ruining the army as its general, the courts as their judge, the imperial fasti as a consul.

No portent so monstrous but time past has given it birth and the labour of bygone centuries produced it. Legend tells us that Oedipus married his mother and Thyestes his daughter; Jocasta bare brothers to her husband, Thyestes's daughter gave birth to her own brother. Athenian tragedy tells the sad tale of Thebes and the baneful war of Troy. Tereus was changed into a bird, Cadmus into a snake; Scylla looked in amaze on the dogs that girt her waist. Ancient story relates how one was transformed into a tree and thus attached to earth, how another grew wings and flew, how a third was clothed with scales and yet another melted into a river. But no country has ever had a eunuch for a consul or judge or general. What in a man is honourable is disgraceful in an emasculate. Here is an example to surpass all that is most laughable in comedy, most lamentable in tragedy.

A pleasant sight in truth to see him strain his sapless limbs beneath the weight of the toga, borne down by the wearing of his consular dress; the gold of his raiment rendered his decrepitude even more hideous. 'Twas as though an ape, man's imitator, had been decked out in sport with precious silken garments by a boy who had left his back and quarters uncovered to amuse the guests at supper. Thus richly dressed he walks upright and seems the more loathsome by reason of his brilliant trappings. Dressed in white the senate, perhaps even his master,<sup>1</sup> accompanies the dishonoured fasces. Behold a portent! A lictor more noble than the

## CLAUDIAN

consule nobilior libertatemque daturus, 310  
 quam necdum meruit. scandit sublime tribunal  
 atque inter proprias laudes Aegyptia iactat  
 somnia prostratosque canit se vate tyrannos.  
 scilicet in dubio vindex Bellona pependit,  
 dum spado Tiresias enervatusque Melampus 315  
 reptat ab extremo referens oracula Nilo.  
 Obstrepuere avium voces, exhorruit annus  
 nomen, et insanum gemino proclamat ab ore  
 eunuchumque vetat fastis accedere Ianus :  
 sumeret inlicitos etenim si femina fasces, 320  
 esset turpe minus. Medis levibusque Sabaeis  
 imperat hic sexus, reginarumque sub armis  
 barbariae pars magna iacet : gens nulla probatur,  
 eunuchi quae sceptrum ferat. Tritonia, Phoebe,  
 Terra, Ceres, Cybele, Iuno, Latona coluntur : 325  
 eunuchi quae templa dei, quas vidimus aras ?  
 inde sacerdotes ; haec intrat pectora Phoebus ;  
 inde canunt Delphi ; Troianam sola Minervam  
 virginitas Vestalis adit flammasque tuetur :  
 hi nullas meriti vittas semperque profani. 330  
 nascitur ad fructum mulier prolemque futuram :  
 hoc genus inventum est ut serviat. Herculis arcu  
 concidit Hippolyte ; Danaï fugere bipennem,  
 Penthesilea, tuam ; claras Carthaginis arces  
 creditur et centum portis Babylona superbam 335  
 femineus struxisse labor. quid nobile gessit

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<sup>1</sup> In 394 Arcadius had sent Eutropius to the Thebaid to consult a certain Christian prophet, John, upon the result of Eugenius' revolt (Sozom. vii. 22. 7, 8).

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

consul, and a man about to grant to others a liberty which he has not yet himself won. He mounts the lofty platform and amid a torrent of self-laudation boasts of a prophetic dream he had in Egypt<sup>1</sup> and of the defeat of tyrants which he foretold. No doubt the goddess of war stayed her avenging hand and waited till that emasculate Tiresias, that unmanned Melampus, could crawl back with oracles culled from farthest Nile.

Loud sang the prophetic birds in warning. The year shuddered at the thought of bearing Eutropius' name, and Janus proclaimed the madness of the choice from his two mouths, forbidding a eunuch to have access to his annals. Had a woman assumed the fasces, though this were illegal it were nevertheless less disgraceful. Women bear sway among the Medes and swift Sabaeans; half barbary is governed by martial queens. We know of no people who endure a eunuch's rule. Worship is paid to Pallas, Phoebe, Vesta, Ceres, Cybele, Juno, and Latona; have we ever seen a temple built or altars raised to a eunuch god? From among women are priestesses chosen; Phoebus enters into their hearts; through their voices the Delphian oracle speaks; none but the Vestal Virgins approach the shrine of Trojan Minerva and tend her flame: eunuchs have never deserved the fillet and are always unholy. A woman is born that she may bear children and perpetuate the human race; the tribe of eunuchs was made for servitude. Hippolyte fell but by the arrow of Hercules; the Greeks fled before Penthesilea's axe; Carthage, far-famed citadel, proud Babylon with her hundred gates, are both said to have been built by a woman's hand. What noble deed did



## CLAUDIAN

eunuchus ? quae bella tulit ? quas condidit urbes ?  
 illas praeterea rerum natura creavit,  
 hos fecere manus : seu prima Semiramis astu  
 Assyriis mentita virum, ne vocis acutae 340  
 mollities levesve genae se prodere possent,  
 hos sibi coniunxit similes ; seu Parthica ferro  
 luxuries vetuit nasci lanuginis umbram  
 servatoque diu puerili flore coegit  
 arte retardatam Veneri servire iuventam. 345

Fama prius falso similis vanoque videri  
 ficta ioco ; levior volitare per oppida rumor  
 riderique nefas : veluti nigrantibus alis  
 audiretur olor, corvo certante ligustris.  
 atque aliquis gravior morum : “ si talibus, inquit, 350  
 creditur et nimiis turgent mendacia monstis,  
 iam testudo volat, profert iam cornua vultur ;  
 prona petunt retro fluvii iuga ; Gadibus ortum  
 Carmani texere diem ; iam frugibus aptum  
 aequor et adsuetum silvis delphina videbo ; 355  
 iam cochleis homines iunctos et quidquid inane  
 nutrit Iudaicis quae pingitur India velis.”

Subicit et mixtis salibus lascivior alter :  
 “ miraris ? nihil est, quod non in pectore magnum  
 concipit Eutropius. semper nova, grandia semper  
 diligit et celeri degustat singula sensu. 361  
 nil timet a tergo ; vigilantibus undique curis  
 nocte dieque patet ; lenis facilisque moveri  
 supplicibus mediaque tamen mollissimus ira  
 nil negat et sese vel non poscentibus offert ; 365

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

a eunuch ever do? What wars did such an one fight, what cities did he found? Moreover, nature created the former, the hand of man the latter, whether it was from fear of being betrayed by her shrill woman's voice and her hairless cheeks that clever Semiramis, to disguise her sex from the Assyrians, first surrounded herself with beings like her, or the Parthians employed the knife to stop the growth of the first down of manhood and forced their boys, kept boys by artifice, to serve their lusts by thus lengthening the years of youthful charm.

At first the rumour of Eutropius' consulship seemed false and invented as a jest. A vague story spread from city to city; the crime was laughed at as one would laugh to hear of a swan with black wings or a crow as white as privet. Thus spake one of weighty character: "If such things are believed and swollen lies tell of unheard of monsters, then the tortoise can fly, the vulture grow horns, rivers flow back and mount the hills whence they spring, the sun rise behind Gades and set amid the Carmanians of India; I shall soon see ocean fit nursery for plants and the dolphin a denizen of the woods; beings half-men, half-snails and all the vain imaginings of India depicted on Jewish curtains."

Then another adds, jesting with a more wanton wit: "Dost thou wonder? Nothing great is there that Eutropius does not conceive in his heart. He ever loves novelty, ever size, and is quick to taste everything in turn. He fears no assault from the rear; night and day he is ready with watchful care; soft, easily moved by entreaty, and, even in the midst of his passion, tenderest of men, he never says 'no,' and is ever at the disposal even of

## CLAUDIAN

quod libet ingenio, subigit traditque fruendum ;  
 quidquid amas, dabit illa manus ; communiter omni  
 fungitur officio gaudetque potentia flecti.  
 hoc quoque conciliis peperit meritoque laborum,  
 accipit et trabeas argutae praemia dextrae." 370

Postquam vera fides facinus vulgavit Eoum  
 gentibus et Romae iam certius impulit aures,  
 "Eutropiumne etiam nostra dignabimur ira ?  
 hic quoque Romani meruit pars esse doloris ?"  
 sic effata rapit caeli per inania cursum 375  
 diva potens unoque Padum translapsa volatu  
 castra sui rectoris adit. tum forte decorus  
 cum Stilichone gener pacem implorantibus ultro  
 Germanis responsa dabat, legesque Caucis  
 arduus et flavis signabat iura Suebis. 380  
 his tribuit reges, his obside foedera sancit  
 indicto ; bellorum alios transcribit in usus,  
 militet ut nostris detonsa Sygambria signis.  
 laeta subit Romam pietas et gaudia paene  
 moverunt lacrimas tantoque exultat alumno : 385  
 sic armenta suo iam defensante iuvenco  
 celsius adsurgunt erectae cornua matri,  
 sic iam terribilem stabulis dominumque ferarum  
 crescere miratur genetrix Massyla leonem.  
 dimovit nebulam iuvenique adparuit ingens. 390  
 tum sic oras loqui :

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<sup>1</sup> With a play upon the sexual meaning of the word :  
 indeed the whole passage, from l. 358 is a mass of obscene  
 innuendo.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. the consulship.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

those that solicit him not. Whatever the senses desire he cultivates and offers for another's enjoyment. That hand will give whatever thou wouldest have. He performs the functions of all alike ; his dignity loves to unbend. His meetings <sup>1</sup> and his deserving labours have won him this reward,<sup>2</sup> and he receives the consul's robe in recompense for the work of his skilful hand."

When the rumour concerning this disgrace of the eastern empire was known to be true and had impressed belief on Roman ears, Rome's goddess thus spake : "Is Eutropius worthy of mine ire ? Is such an one fit cause for Roman grief ?" So saying the mighty goddess winged her way through the heavens and with one stroke of her pinions passed beyond the Po and approached the camp of her emperor. It happened that even then the august Honorius, assisted by his father-in-law Stilicho, was making answer to the Germans who had come of their own accord to sue for peace. From his lofty throne he was dictating laws to the Cauci and giving a constitution to the flaxen-haired Suebi. Over these he sets a king, with those he signs a treaty now that hostages have been demanded ; others he enters on the list as serviceable allies in war, so that in future the Sygambrians will cut off their flowing locks and serve beneath our banners. Joy and love so fill the goddess' heart that she well nigh weeps, so great is her happy pride in her illustrious foster-child. So when a heifer fights in defence of the herd his mother lifts her own horns more proudly ; so the African lioness gazes with admiration on her cub as he grows to be the terror of the farmsteads and the future king of beasts. Rome lays aside her veil of cloud and towers above the youthful warrior, then thus begins.

## CLAUDIAN

“ Quantum te principe possim,  
 non longinqua docent, domito quod Saxone Tethys  
 mitior aut fracto secura Britannia Picto ;  
 ante pedes humili Franco tristique Suebo  
 perfruo et nostrum video, Germanice, Rhenum. 395  
 sed quid agam ? discors Oriens felicibus actis  
 invidet atque alio Phoebi de cardine surgunt  
 crimina, ne toto conspiret corpore regnum.  
 Gildonis taceo magna cum laude receptam  
 perfidiam et fretos Eoo robore Mauros. 400  
 quae suscepta fames, quantum discriminis urbi,  
 ni tua vel soceri numquam non provida virtus  
 australem Arctois pensasset frugibus annum !  
 invectae Rhodani Tiberina per ostia classes  
 Cinyphiisque ferax Araris successit aristis. 405  
 Teutonicus vomer Pyrenaeique iuvenci  
 sudavere mihi ; segetes mirantur Hiberas  
 horrea ; nec Libyae senserunt damna rebellis  
 iam transalpina contenti messe Quirites.  
 ille quidem solvit meritas (scit Tabraca) poenas, 410  
 ut pereat quicumque tuis conflixerit armis.  
 “ Ecce repens isdem clades a partibus exit  
 terrorisque minus, sed plus habitura pudoris  
 Eutropius consul. pridem tolerare fatemur  
 hoc genus, Arsacio postquam se regia fastu 415  
 sustulit et nostros corrumpit Parthia mores.  
 praefecti sed adhuc gemmis vestique dabantur  
 custodes sacroque adhibere silentia somno ;

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<sup>1</sup> She calls him *Germanicus* because of his pacification of Germany ; see Introduction, p. x.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

“ Examples near at hand testify to the extent of my power now thou art emperor. The Saxon is conquered and the seas safe ; the Picts have been defeated and Britain is secure. I love to see at my feet the humbled Franks and broken Suebi, and I behold the Rhine mine own, Germanicus.<sup>1</sup> Yet what am I to do ? The discordant East envies our prosperity, and beneath that other sky, lo ! wickedness flourishes to prevent our empire’s breathing in harmony with one body. I make no mention of Gildo’s treason, detected so gloriously in spite of the power of the East on which the rebel Moor relied. For what extremes of famine did we not then look ? How dire a danger overhung our city, had not thy valour or the ever-provident diligence of thy father-in-law supplied corn from the north in place of that from the south ! Up Tiber’s estuary there sailed ships from the Rhine, and the Saône’s fertile banks made good the lost harvests of Africa. For me the Germans ploughed and the Spaniards’ oxen sweated ; my granaries marvel at Iberian corn, nor did my citizens, now satisfied with harvests from beyond the Alps, feel the defection of revolted Africa. Gildo, however, paid the penalty for his treason as Tabraca can witness. So perish all who take up arms against thee !

“ Lo ! on a sudden from that same clime comes another scourge, less terrible indeed but even more shameful, the consulship of Eutropius. I admit I have long learned to tolerate this unmanned tribe, ever since the court exalted itself with Arsacid pomp and the example of Parthia corrupted our morals. But till now they were but set to guard jewels and raiment, and to secure silence for the imperial slumber. Never beyond the sleeping-

## CLAUDIAN

militia eunuchi numquam progressa cubili,  
 non vita spondente fidem, sed inertia tutum 420  
 mentis pignus erat. secreta monilia servant,  
 ornatus curent Tyrios : a fronte recedant  
 imperii. tenero tractari pectore nescit  
 publica maiestas. numquam vel in aequore puppim  
 vidimus eunuchi clavo parere magistri. 425  
 nos adeo sperni faciles ? orbisque carina  
 vilior ? auroram sane, quae talia ferre  
 gaudet, et adsuetas sceptris muliebribus urbes  
 possideant ; quid belliferam communibus urunt  
 Italiam maculis nocituraque probra severis 430  
 ammiscent populis ? peregrina piacula forti  
 pellantur longe Latio nec transeat Alpes  
 dedecus ; in solis, quibus extitit, haereat arvis.  
 scribat Halys, scribat famae contemptor Orontes :  
 per te perque tuos obtestor Roma triumphos, 435  
 nesciat hoc Thybris, numquam poscentibus olim  
 qui dare Dentatis annos Fabiisque solebat.  
 Martius eunuchi repetet suffragia campus ?  
 Aemilios inter servatoresque Camillos  
 Eutropius ? iam Chrysogonis tua, Brute, potestas 440  
 Narcissisque datur ? natos hoc dedere poenae  
 profuit et misero civem praeponere patri ?  
 hoc mihi Ianiculo positis Etruria castris  
 quaesiit et tantum fluvio Porsenna remotus ?  
 hoc meruit vel ponte Cocles vel Mucius igne ? 445  
 visceribus frustra castum Lucretia ferrum

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<sup>1</sup> Notorious freedmen and tools respectively of Sulla and the Emperor Claudius.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

chamber did the eunuch's service pass ; not their lives gave guarantee of loyalty but their dull wits were a sure pledge. Let them guard hidden store of pearls and Tyrian-dyed vestments ; they must quit high offices of state. The majesty of Rome cannot devolve upon an effeminate. Never have we seen so much as a ship at sea obey the helm in the hands of a eunuch-captain. Are we then so despicable ? Is the whole world of less account than a ship ? Let eunuchs govern the East by all means, for the East rejoices in such rulers, let them lord it over cities accustomed to a woman's sway : why disfigure warlike Italy with the general brand and defile her austere peoples with their deadly profligacy ? Drive this foreign pollution from out the boundaries of manly Latium ; suffer not this thing of shame to cross the Alps ; let it remain fixed in the country of its birth. Let the river Halys or Orontes, careless of its reputation, add such a name to its annals : I, Rome, beg thee by thy life and triumphs, let not Tiber suffer this disgrace—Tiber whose way was to give the consulship to such men as Dentatus and Fabius though they asked not for it. Shall the Field of Mars witness the canvassing of an eunuch ? Is Eutropius to stand with Aemilii and Camilli, saviours of their country ? Is thy office, Brutus, now to be given to a Chryso-gonus or a Narcissus<sup>1</sup> ? Is this the reward for giving up thy sons to punishment and setting the citizen's duty before the father's grief ? Was it for this that the Tuscans made their camp on the Janiculum and Porsenna was but the river's span from our gates ? For this that Horatius kept the bridge and Mucius braved the flames ? Was it all to no purpose that



## CLAUDIAN

mersit et attonitum tranavit Cloelia Thybrim ?  
 Eutropio fascēs adservabantur adempti  
 Tarquiniis ? quemcumque meae vexere curules,  
 laxato veniat socium aversatus Averno. 450  
 impensi sacris Decii prorumpite bustis  
 Torquatique truces animosaeque pauperis umbra  
 Fabricii tuque o, si forte inferna piorum  
 iugera et Elysias scindis, Serrane, novales.  
 Poeno Scipiadae, Poeno praeclare Lutati, 455  
 Sicania Marcelle ferox, gens Claudia surgas <sup>1</sup>  
 et Curii veteres ; et, qui sub iure negasti  
 vivere Caesareo, parvo procede sepulcro  
 Eutropium passure Cato ; remeate tenebris,  
 agmina Brutorum Corvinorumque catervae. 460  
 eunuchi vestros habitus, insignia sumunt  
 ambigui Romana mares ; rapuere tremendas  
 Hannibali Pyrrhoque togas ; flabella perosi  
 adspirant trabeis ; iam non umbracula gestant  
 virginibus, Latias ausi vibrare secures ! 465  
 “ Linquite femineas infelix turba latebras,  
 alter quos pepulit sexus nec suscipit alter,  
 execti Veneris stimulos et vulnere casti  
 (mixta duplex aetas ; inter puerumque senemque  
 nil medium) : falsi complete sedilia patres ; 470  
 ite novi procures infecundoque senatu  
 Eutropium stipate ducem ; celebrate tribunal  
 pro thalamis, verso iam discite more curules,  
 non matrum pilenta sequi.

<sup>1</sup> *MSS. have surgat*

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

chaste Lucretia plunged the dagger into her bosom and Cloelia swam the astonished Tiber? Were the fasces reft from Tarquin to be given to Eutropius? Let Hell ope her jaws and all who have sat in my curule chair come and turn their backs upon their colleague. Decii, self-sacrificed for your country's good, come forth from your graves; and you, fierce Torquati; and thou, too, great-hearted shade of poor Fabricius. Serranus, come thou hither, if now thou plougest the acres of the holy dead and cleavest the fallow lands of Elysium. Come Scipios, Lutatius, famed for your victories over Carthage, Marcellus, conqueror of Sicily, rise from the dead, thou Claudian race, you progeny of Curius. Cato, thou who wouldst not live beneath Caesar's rule, come thou forth from thy simple tomb and brave the sight of Eutropius. Immortal bands of Bruti and Corvini, return to earth. Eunuchs don your robes of office, sexless beings assume the insignia of Rome. They have laid hands on the toga that inspired Hannibal and Pyrrhus with terror. They now despise the fan and aspire to the consul's cloak. No longer do they carry the maidenly parasol for they have dared to wield the axes of Latium.

“Unhappy band, leave your womanly fastnesses, you whom the male sex has discarded and the female will not adopt. The knife has cut out the stings of love and by that wounding you are pure. A mixture are you of two ages—child and greybeard and nought between. Take your seats, fathers in name alone. Come new lords, come sterile senate, throng your leader Eutropius. Fill the judgement-seat, not the bedchamber. Change your habits and learn to follow the consul's chair, not the woman's litter.

## CLAUDIAN

“ Ne prisca revolvam

neu numerem, quantis iniuria mille per annos      475  
 sit retro ducibus, quanti foedabitur aevi  
 canities, unam subeant quot saecula culpam :  
 inter Arinthaeci fastos et nomen erile  
 servus erit dominoque suos aequalis honores  
 inseret ! heu semper Ptolomaei noxia mundo      480  
 mancipia ! en alio laedor graviore Pothino  
 et patior maius Phario scelus. ille cruorem  
 consulis unius Pellaeis ensibus hausit ;  
 inquinat hic omnes.

“ Si nil privata movebunt,

at tu principibus, vestrae tu prospice causae      485  
 regalesque averte notas. hunc accipit unum  
 aula magistratum : vobis patribusque recurrit  
 hic alternus honos. in crimen euntibus annis  
 parce, quater consul ! contagia fascibus, oro,  
 defendas ignava tuis neu tradita libris      490  
 omina vestitusque meos, quibus omne, quod ambit  
 oceanus, domui, tanta caligine mergi  
 calcarique sinas. nam quae iam bella geramus  
 mollibus auspiciis ? quae iam conubia prolem  
 vel frugem latura seges ? quid fertile terris,      495  
 quid plenum sterili possit sub consule nasci ?  
 eunuchi si iura dabunt legesque tenebunt,  
 ducant pensa viri mutatoque ordine rerum  
 vivat Amazonio confusa licentia ritu.

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<sup>1</sup> Arinthaecus had held the high position of *magister peditum*. He died in 379.

<sup>2</sup> Pothinus, the creature of Ptolemy Dionysius, was instrumental in killing Pompey in Egypt in 48 B.C.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

“I would not cite examples from remote antiquity nor count the countless magistrates of past history whom he thus outrages. But think how the reverence due to all past ages will be impaired, on how many centuries one man’s shame will set its mark. Amid the annals that record the name of Arinthaëus,<sup>1</sup> his master, will be found the slave, and he will enter his own honours as equal to those of his owner. The slaves of Egypt’s kings have ever been a curse to the world; behold I suffer from a worse than Pothinus and bear a wrong more flagrant than that of which Egypt was once the scene. Pothinus’ sword at Alexandria spilled the blood of a single consul; <sup>2</sup> Eutropius brings dishonour on all.

“If the fate of subjects cannot move thee, yet have thou regard for princes, for your common cause, and remove this stain on royalty. The consulship is the sole office the emperor deigns to accept; alternately the honour passes to Court and Senate. Thou who hast thyself been four times consul spare succeeding consuls this infamy. I pray thee, protect the fasces, so often thine, from the pollution of a eunuch’s hand; let not the omens handed down in our sacred books, let not those robes of mine wherewith I have subdued everything within Ocean’s stream, be plunged in so great darkness and trodden under foot. What kind of wars can we wage now that a eunuch takes the auspices? What marriage, what harvest will be fruitful? What fertility, what abundance is possible beneath a consul stricken with sterility? If eunuchs shall give judgement and determine laws, then let men card wool and live like the Amazons, confusion and licence dispossessing the order of nature.

## CLAUDIAN

“ Quid trahor ulterius ? Stilicho, quid vincere differs,  
dum certare pudet ? nescis quod turpior hostis 501  
laetitia maiore cadit ? piratica Magnum  
erigit, inlustrat servilis laurea Crassum.  
adnuis. agnosco fremitum, quo palluit Eurus,  
quo Mauri Gildoque ruit. quid Martia signa 505  
sollicitas ? non est iaculis hastisve petendus :  
conscia succumbent audito verbere terga,  
ut Scythia post multos rediens exercitus annos,  
cum sibi servilis pro finibus obvia pubes  
iret et arceret dominos tellure reversos, 510  
armatam ostensis aciem fudere flagellis :  
notus ab inceptis ignobile reppulit horror  
vulgus et addictus sub verbere torpuit ensis.”

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, I

“ What need of further words ? Why, Stilicho, dost thou delay to conquer because ashamed to fight ? Knowest thou not that the viler a foe the greater the rejoicing at his overthrow ? His defeat of the pirates extended the fame of great Pompey ; his victory in the Servile War gave an added glory to Crassus. Thou acceptest my charge : I recognize the clamour that terrified the East and drove Gildo and his Moors to their destruction. Why sound the trump of war ? No need to attack him with javelin or spear. At the crack of the whip will be bowed the back that has felt its blows. Even so when after many years the Scythian army came back from the wars and was met on the confines of its native land by the usurping crowd of slaves who sought to keep their returning masters from their country ; with displayed whips they routed the armed ranks ; back from its enterprise the familiar terror drove the servile mob, and at threat of the lash the bondsman’s sword grew dull.”



## AGAINST EUTROPIUS

### BOOK II. PREFACE

(XIX)

The nobly born Eutropius who but lately wielded the reins of supreme power once more fears the familiar blows ; and, soon to feel the wonted shackles about his halting feet, he laments that his threats against his masters have idly vanished. Fortune, having had enough of her mad freak, has thrust him forth from his high office and restored him to his old way of life. He now prepares to hew wood with axe other than the consular and is at last scourged with the rods he once proudly carried. To the punishment set in motion by him when consul he himself as consul succumbed ; the year that brought him his robe of office brought him his exile. That omen of evil augury for the people turns against itself, the portent of that consulship brings ruin to the consul. That name erased, our annals breathe once more, and better health is restored to the palace now that it has at last vomited forth its poison. His friends deny him, his accomplices abandon him ; in his fall is involved all the eunuch band, overcome not in battle, subdued not by siege—they may not die a man's death. A mere stroke of the pen has wrought their undoing, a simple letter has fulfilled Mars' savage work.



## CLAUDIAN

Mollis feminea detruditur arce tyrannus  
 et thalamo pulsus perdidit imperium :  
 sic iuvenis nutante fide veterique reducta  
 paelice defletam linquit amica domum.  
 canitiem raram largo iam pulvere turpat 25  
 et lacrimis rugas implet anile gemens  
 suppliciterque pias humilis prostratus ad aras  
 mitigat iratas voce tremente nurus.  
 innumeri glomerantur eri sibi quisque petentes  
 mancipium solis utile suppliciis. 30  
 quamvis foedus enim mentemque obscaenior ore,  
 ira dabit pretium ; poena meretur emi.

Quas, spado, nunc terras aut quem transibis in axem ?  
 cingeris hinc odiis, inde recessit amor.  
 utraque te gemino sub sidere regia damnat : 35  
 Hesperius numquam, iam nec Eous eris.  
 miror cur, aliis qui pandere fata solebas,  
 ad propriam cladem caeca Sibylla taces.  
 iam tibi nulla videt fallax insomnia Nilus ;  
 pervigilant vates iam, miserande, tui. 40  
 quid soror ? audebit tecum conscendere puppim  
 et veniet longum per mare fida comes ?  
 an fortasse toros eunuchi pauperis odit  
 et te nunc inopem dives amare negat ?  
 eunuchi iugulum primus secuisse fateris ; 45  
 sed tamen exemplo non feriere tuo.  
 vive pudor fati. en quem tremuere tot urbes,  
 en cuius populi sustinuere iugum !

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian calls Eutropius the Sibyl because both were "old women." He is referring to Eutropius' consultation of the Egyptian oracle ; *cf. In Eutrop.* i. 312 and note.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II: PREFACE

The unsexed tyrant has been routed from out his fastness in the women's quarters and, driven from the bedchamber, has lost his power. Thus sadly, when her lover's fidelity wavers and a former favourite has been recalled, does a mistress leave his house. With handfuls of dust he sprinkles his scanty hairs and floods his wrinkles with senile tears; as he lies in humble supplication before the altars of the gods his trembling voice seeks to soften the anger of the women. His countless masters gather around, each demanding back his slave, useless except for chastisement. For loathsome though he is and fouler in mind even than in face, yet the very anger they feel against him will make them pay; he is worth buying simply to punish.

What land or country wilt thou now visit, eunuch? Here hate surrounds thee, there thy popularity is fled; both courts have uttered thy condemnation in either half of the world; never wert thou of the West, now the East repudiates thee too. I marvel that thou, blind Sibyl,<sup>1</sup> who foretold'st the fates of others, art silent about thine own. No longer does fallacious Nile interpret thy dreams; no longer, poor wretch, do thy prophets see visions. What doth thy sister? Will she dare to embark with thee and bear thee faithful company over the distant seas? Mayhap she scorns the couch of an impoverished eunuch, and now that she herself is rich will not love thee who now art poor. Thou dost confess thou wert the first to cut a eunuch's throat, but the example will not secure thine own death. Live on that destiny may blush. Lo! this is he whom so many cities have held in awe, whose yoke so many peoples have borne. Why lament the loss of that

## CLAUDIAN

direptas quid plangis opes, quas natus habebit ?  
 non aliter poteris principis esse pater. 50  
 improbe, quid pulsas muliebribus astra querellis,  
 quod tibi sub Cypri litore parta quies ?  
 omnia barbarico per te concussa tumultu.  
 crede mihi, terra tutius aequor erit.

Iam non Armenios iaculis terrebis et arcu, 55  
 per campos volucrem non agitabis equum ;  
 dilecto caruit Byzantius ore senatus ;  
 curia consiliis aestuat orba tuis :  
 emeritam suspende togam, suspende pharetram ;  
 ad Veneris partes ingeniumque redi. 60  
 non bene Gradivo lenonia dextera servit.  
 suscipiet famulum te Cytharea libens.  
 insula laeta choris, blandorum mater Amorum :  
 nulla pudicitiae cura placere potest.  
 prospectant Paphiae celsa de rupe puellae 65  
 sollicitae, salvam dum ferat unda ratem.  
 sed vereor, teneant ne te Tritones in alto  
 lascivas doctum fallere Nereidas,  
 aut idem cupiant pelago te mergere venti,  
 Gildonis nuper qui tenuere fugam. 70  
 inclita captivo memoratur Tabraca Mauro,  
 naufragio Cyprus sit memoranda tuo.  
 vecturum moriens frustra delphina vocabis ;  
 ad terram solos devehit ille viros.  
 quisquis adhuc similis eunuchus tendit in actus, 75  
 respiciens Cyprum desinat esse ferox.

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<sup>1</sup> Eutropius had been raised by Arcadius to the highest of all ranks, that of Patrician. These *patricii* were called the "fathers" of the Emperor. Hence Eutropius, a patrician,

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II: PREFACE

wealth thy son shall inherit? In no other way couldst thou have been father to an emperor.<sup>1</sup> Why insatiably weary heaven with a woman's plaints? A haven of refuge is prepared for thee on the shores of Cyprus. Thou hast plunged the world in war with barbary; the sea, believe me, is safer than the land.

No longer wilt thou strike terror into the Armenians with javelin and bow, no more scour the plain on thy fleet charger. The senate of Byzantium has been deprived of thy loved voice; uncertainty holds the august assembly that is now deprived of thy counsels. Hang up thy toga, retired consul; hang up thy quiver, veteran soldier; return to Venus' service; that is thy true calling. The pander's hand knows not to serve Mars featly; Cytherea will right gladly take back her slave. Dancing fills the island of Cyprus, home of the happy loves; there purity commands no respect. Paphian maidens gaze forth from the high cliffs, anxious till the wave has brought thy bark safe to land. Yet fear I lest the Tritons detain thee in the deep to teach them how they may seduce the sportive Nereids, or that those same winds which hindered Gildo's flight may seek to drown thee in the sea. Tabraca owes its fame to the overthrow of the Moor; may Cyprus win prestige from thy shipwreck. In vain will thy last breath be spent in calling on the dolphin to carry thee to shore: his back bears only men.<sup>2</sup> Hereafter should any eunuch attempt to emulate thine actions let him turn his eye towards Cyprus and abate his pride.

left (*i.e.* forfeited) his property on his banishment to Cyprus to his "son" Arcadius.

<sup>2</sup> A reference to the rescue of Arion by the dolphin.

## IN EUTROPIUM

### LIBER II

(XX)

Mygdonii cineres et si quid restat Eoi,  
quod pereat, regni : certe non augure falso  
prodigii patuere minae, frustraue peracto  
vulnere monstriferi praesagia discitis anni.  
cautior ante tamen violentum navita Caurum 5  
prospicit et tumidae subducit vela procellae.  
quid iuvat errorem mersa iam puppe fateri ?  
quid lacrimae delicta levant ? stant omina vestri  
consulis : inmotis haesere piacula fati.  
tunc decuit sentire nefas, tunc ire recentes 10  
detersum maculas. veteri post obruta morbo  
corpora Paeonias nequiquam admoveris herbas.  
ulcera possessis alte suffusa medullis  
non levioꝛe manu, ferro sanantur et igni,  
ne noceat frustra mox eruptura cicatrix. 15  
ad vivum penetrant flammae, quo funditus umor  
defluat et vacuis corrupto sanguine venis

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS

### BOOK II

#### (XX)

Ashes of Phrygia and you last remnants of the ruined East (if any such remain), the augury was but too true, too clear the threats of heaven : now that the blow has fallen what use to learn the presagings of this year of portents ? The sailor is more cautious ; he foresees the violence of the North wind and hauls in his canvas before the swelling storm. Of what avail to acknowledge a mistake when his vessel is already sunk ? Can tears extenuate a crime ? The sinister auspices of your consul live on ; the atonement due to unmoved fate remains fixed. Ere the deed was done you should have realized its horror ; you should have erased the blot ere it had dried. When the body is overwhelmed by long-standing disease 'tis all in vain that thou makest use of healing medicines. When an ulcer has penetrated to the marrow of the bones the touch of a hand is useless, steel and fire must sane the place that the wound heal not on the surface, like any moment to re-open. The flame must penetrate to the quick to make a way for the foul humours to escape ; in order that, once the veins are emptied of corrupted blood, the

## CLAUDIAN

arescat fons ipse mali ; truncatur et artus,  
 ut liceat reliquis securum degere membris.  
 at vos egregie purgatam creditis aulam, 20  
 Eutropium si Cyprus habet ? vindictaque mundi  
 semivir exul erit ? qui vos lustrare valebit  
 oceanus ? tantum facinus quae diluet aetas ?

Induerat necdum trabeas : mugitus ab axe  
 redditus inferno, rabies arcana cavernas 25  
 vibrat et alterno configunt culmina lapsu.  
 bacchatus per operta tremor Calchedona movit  
 pronus et in geminas nutavit Bosphorus urbes.  
 concurrere freti fauces, radice revulsa  
 vitant instabilem rursum Symplegada nautae. 30  
 scilicet haec Stygiae praemittunt signa sorores  
 et sibi iam tradi populos hoc consule gaudent.  
 mox oritur diversa lues : hinc Mulciber ignes  
 sparserat, hinc victa proruperat obice Nereus ;  
 haec flagrant, haec tecta natant. quam, numina,  
 poenam 35

servatis sceleri, cuius tot cladibus omen  
 constitit ? incumbas utinam, Neptune, tridenti  
 pollutumque solum toto cum crimine mergas.  
 unam pro mundo Furiis concedimus urbem. 39

Utque semel patuit monstris iter, omnia tempus  
 nacta suum properant : nasci tum decolor imber  
 infantumque novi vultus et dissona partu  
 semina, tum lapidum fletus armentaque vulgo  
 ausa loqui mediisque ferae se credere muris ;  
 tum vates sine more rapi lymphataque passim 45  
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## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

fountain-head of the evil may be dried up. Nay, even limbs are amputated to assure the healthy life of the rest of the body. Think you the Court fitly cleansed by Eutropius' exile in Cyprus? The world avenged by the banishment of a eunuch? Can any ocean wash away that stain? any age bring forgetfulness of so great a crime?

Ere yet he had donned the consul's robe there came a rumbling from the bowels of the earth; a hidden madness shook the subterranean caverns and buildings crashed one on another. Chalcedon, shaken to the foundations, tottered like a drunken man, and Bosporus, straying from his course, flooded the cities on his either bank. The shores of the strait came together and the sailors once more had to avoid the Clashing Rocks, torn from their foundation and errant. Surely such presages were sent by the sister deities of Styx, rejoicing that under this consul at last all peoples were delivered into their hands. Soon arose divers forms of ruin: here the fire-god spread his flames; there Nereus, god of the sea, brake his bounds. Here men's homes were burned, there flooded. Ye gods, what punishment do ye hold in store for the scoundrel whose rise to power was marked by such portents? O'ercome us, Neptune, with thy trident and overwhelm our defiled soil along with all the guilt. One city we yield to the Furies, a scapegoat for the sins of the world.

Once the way was open for portents, prodigies of every sort hasted to disclose themselves. Rain of blood fell, children of weird form were born and offspring discordant with their breed. Statues wept, not seldom the herds dared to speak, and wild beasts braved an entrance into the city. Then seers raved



## CLAUDIAN

pectora terrifici stimulis ignescere Phoebi.  
 fac nullos cecinisse deos : adeone retusi  
 quisquam cordis erit, dubitet qui partibus illis  
 adfore fatalem castrati consulis annum ?  
 sed quam caecus inest vitiis amor ! omne futurum 50  
 despicitur suadentque brevem praesentia fructum  
 et ruit in vetitum damni secura libido,  
 dum mora supplicii lucro serumque quod instat  
 creditur. haud equidem contra tot signa Camillo  
 detulerim fascēs, nedum (pro sexus !) inerti 55  
 mancipio, cui, cuncta licet responsa iuberent  
 hortantesque licet sponderent prospera divi,  
 turpe fuit cessisse viros.

Exquirite retro

crimina continui lectis annalibus aevi,  
 prisca recensitis evolvite saecula fastis : 60  
 quid senis infandi Capreae, quid scaena Neronis  
 tale ferunt ? spado Romuleo succinctus amictu  
 sedit in Augustis laribus. vulgata patebat  
 aula salutantum studiis ; huc plebe senatus  
 permixta trepidique duces omnisque potestas 65  
 confluit. advolvi genibus, contingere dextram  
 ambitus et votum deformibus oscula rugis  
 figere. praesidium legum genitorque vocatur  
 principis et famulum dignatur regia patrem.  
 posteritas, admitte fidem : monumenta petuntur 70  
 dedecoris multisque gemunt incudibus aera  
 formatura nefas. haec iudicis, illa togati,

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<sup>1</sup> Suetonius draws a lurid (and probably exaggerated) picture of the debaucheries of Tiberius' old age at Capri. The same author describes the "scaena Neronis." The curious may find the account in Suet. *Nero*, xxix.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

strangely and frenzied hearts were everywhere ablaze, stirred by the fires of the dread god Phoebus. Yet even had no god warned us, whose mind shall be so dull as to doubt that the year of an emasculate consul must be fatal to those lands? Blind folly ever accompanies crime; of the future no account is taken; sufficient for the day is its short-lived pleasure; heedless of loss passion plunges into forbidden joys, counting the postponement of punishment a gain and believing distant the retribution that even now o'erhangs. In face of such portents I would not have entrusted Camillus' self with the fasces, let alone a sexless slave (oh! the shame of it!), to yield it to whom were, for men, a disgrace, even though every oracle decreed it, and the insistent deities gave pledges of prosperity.

Look back in the annals of crime, read o'er all past history, unroll the volumes of Rome's story. What can the Capri of Tiberius' old age, what can Nero's theatre offer like to this?<sup>1</sup> A eunuch, clad in the cloak of Romulus, sat within the house of the emperors; the staled palace lay open to the eager throng of visitors; hither hasten senators, mingling with the populace, anxious generals and magistrates of every degree; all are fain to be the first to fall at his feet and to touch his hand; the prayer of all is to set kisses on those hideous wrinkles. He is called defender of the laws, father of the emperor, and the court deigns to acknowledge a slave as its overlord. Ye who come after, acknowledge that it is true! Men must needs erect monuments to celebrate this infamy; on many an anvil groans the bronze that is to take upon it the form of this monster. Here gleams his statue as a judge,

## CLAUDIAN

haec nitet armati species ; numerus ubique  
 fulget eques : praefert eunuchi curia vultus. 75  
 ac veluti caveant ne quo consistere virtus  
 possit pura loco, cunctas hoc ore laborant  
 incestare vias. maneant inmota precamur  
 certaue perpetui sint argumenta pudoris.  
 subter adulantes tituli nimiaeque leguntur  
 vel maribus laudes : claro quod nobilis ortu 80  
 (cum vivant domini !), quod maxima proelia solus  
 impleat (et patitur miles !), quod tertius urbis  
 conditor (hoc Byzas Constantinusque videbant !).  
 inter quae tumidus leno producere cenas  
 in lucem, foetere mero, dispergere plausum 85  
 empturas in vulgus opes, totosque theatris  
 indulgere dies, alieni prodigus auri.  
 at soror et, si quid portentis creditur, uxor  
 mulcebat matres epulis et more pudicae  
 coniugis eunuchi celebrabat vota mariti. 90  
 hanc amat, hanc summa de re vel pace vel armis  
 consulit, huic curas et clausa palatia mandat  
 ceu stabulum vacuumque domum. sic magna tueri  
 regna nihil, patiensque iugi deluditur orbis ?  
 Mitior alternum Zephyri iam bruma teporem 95  
 senserat et primi laxabant germina flores,  
 iamque iter in gremio pacis sollemne parabant  
 ad muros, Ancyra, tuos, auctore repertum  
 Eutropio, pelagi ne taedia longa subirent,

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<sup>1</sup> Mythical founder of Byzantium (= Constantinople) : said to have been contemporaneous with the Argonauts (Diod. iv. 49. 1).

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* to prevent his being bored with the view of the Bosphorus.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

there as a consul, there as a warrior. On every side one sees that figure of his mounted on his horse ; before the very doors of the senate-house behold a eunuch's countenance. As though to rob virtue of any place where she might sojourn undefiled, men labour to befoul every street with this vile image. May they rest for ever undisturbed, indisputable proofs of our eternal shame ; such is my prayer. Beneath the statues one reads flattering titles and praises too great even for *men*. Do they tell of his noble race and lineage while his owners are still alive ? What soldier brooks to read that single-handed he, Eutropius, won great battles ? Are Byzas<sup>1</sup> and Constantine to be told that he is the third founder of Rome ? Meanwhile the arrogant pander prolongs his revels till the dawn, stinking of wine and scattering money amid the crowd to buy their applause. He spends whole days of amusement in the theatres, prodigal of another's money. But his sister and spouse (if such a prodigy can be conceived) wins the favour of Rome's matrons by entertainments, and, like a chaste wife, sings the praises of her eunuch husband. 'Tis her he loves, her he consults on all matters of importance, be it of peace or war, to her care he entrusts the keys of the palace, as one would of a stable or empty house. Is the guardianship of a mighty empire thus naught ? Is it thus he makes a mockery of a world's obedience ?

Winter, passing into spring, had now felt the returning warmth of Zephyrus' breezes and the earliest flowers had oped their buds when, in the lap of peace, they were preparing the annual journey to thy walls, Ancyra. 'Twas Eutropius' device that weariness of the sea<sup>2</sup> might not come upon him,

## CLAUDIAN

sed vaga lascivis flueret discursibus aestas : 100  
 unde tamen tanta sublimes mole redibant,  
 ceu vinctos traherent Medos Indumque bibissent.  
 ecce autem flavis Gradivus ab usque Gelonis  
 arva cruentato repetebat Thracia curru :  
 subsidunt Pangaea rotis altaeque sonoro 105  
 stridunt axe nives. ut vertice constitit Haemi  
 femineasque togas pressis conspexit habenis,  
 subrisit crudele pater cristisque micantem  
 quassavit galeam ; tunc implacabile numen  
 Bellonam adloquitur, quae sanguine sordida vestem  
 Illyricis pingues pectebat stragibus hydros : 111  
 “ Necdum mollitiae, necdum, germana, mederi  
 possumus Eoae ? numquam corrupta rigescent  
 saecula ? Cappadocum tepidis Argaeus acervis  
 aestuat ; infelix etiamnum pallet Orontes. 115  
 dum pereunt, meminere mali ; si corda parumper  
 respirare sinas, nullo tot funera sensu  
 praetereunt : antiqua levis iactura cruoris !  
 “ Adspicis obscaenum facinus ? quid crinibus ora  
 protegis ? en quales sese diffudit in actus 120  
 parva quies, quantum nocuerunt otia ferri !  
 qui caruit bellis, eunucho traditur annus.  
 actum de trabeis esset, si partibus una  
 mens foret Hesperii ; rueret derisa vetustas  
 nullaque calcati starent vestigia iuris, 125  
 ni memor imperii Stilicho morumque priorum  
 turpe relegasset defenso Thybride nomen  
 192

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

but a roaming summer might slide away in pleasure journeys. But so magnificent was their return, you would have imagined they brought conquered Persia in their train and had drunk of the waters of Indus. Look you ! Mars, returning from the distant lands of the yellow-haired Geloni, was re-seeking the lands of Thrace in his bloody chariot. Pangaeus subsided beneath his wheels, the mountain snows cried out under his sounding axle. Scarce had the father stayed on Haemus' summit and, reining in his coursers, looked upon the toga-clad woman, when he smiled a cruel smile and shook his gleaming crested helm ; then he addressed Bellona, implacable goddess, who, her raiment all stained with blood, was combing her snake-hair, fattened on the slaughter of Illyrians.

“ Sister, shall we never succeed in curing the East of effeminacy ? Will this corrupt age never learn true manliness ? Argaeus yet reeks with those heaps of dead Cappadocians not yet cold ; Orontes is still pale from misery. But they only remember evil while they suffer it ; give them a moment's respite and all their slaughter fades from their minds unfelt ; little they reckon of bloodshed that is past.

“ Seest thou this foul deed ? Why veil thy face with thine hair ? See what crimes a short spell of peace has wrought ! what a curse has the sheathed sword proved ! The year that has known no war has had a eunuch for its consul. The consulship would have been at an end had a like spirit animated Italy ; this age-long office had fallen amid mockery and no traces been left of its trampled rights, had not Stilicho, heedful of the empire and of the character and morals of a past age, banished from Tiber's city

## CLAUDIAN

intactamque novo servasset crimine Romam.  
 ille dedit portum, quo se pulsata referret  
 maiestas Latii deformataeque secures ; 130  
 ille dedit fastos, ad quos Oriente relicto  
 confugeret sparsum maculis servilibus aevum.

“ Quam similes haec aula viros ! ad moenia visus  
 dirige : num saltem tacita formidine mussant ?  
 num damnant animo ? plaudentem cerne senatum 135  
 et Byzantinos proceres Graiosque Quirites.  
 o patribus plebes, o digni consule patres !  
 quid ? quod et armati cessant et nulla virilis  
 inter tot gladios sexum reminiscitur ira ?  
 hucine nostrorum cinctus abiere nepotum ? 140  
 sic Bruti despectus honos ?

“ Ignosce parenti,

Romule, quod serus temeratis fascibus ultor  
 advenio : iamiam largis haec gaudia faxo  
 compensent lacrimis. quid dudum inflare moraris  
 Tartaream, Bellona, tubam, quid stringere falcem, 145  
 qua populos a stirpe metis ? molire tumultus,  
 excute delicias. Thracum Macetumque ruinae  
 taedet et in gentes iterum saevire sepultas.  
 damna minus consueta move ; trans aequora saevas  
 verte faces ; aliis exordia sume rapinis. 150  
 non tibi Riphacis hostis quaerendus ab oris,  
 non per Caucasias accito turbine valles  
 est opus. Ostrogothis colitur mixtisque Gruthungis  
 Phryx ager : hos parvae poterunt impellere causae  
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## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

this shameful name and kept Rome unsullied by an unheard of crime. He has given us a harbour to which the exiled majesty of Latium and the disgraced fasces might retire ; he has given us annals wherein, abandoning the East, an age polluted with servile stains might find a refuge.

“ How like to its lord the inhabitants of the palace ! Turn your eyes to the city walls. Surely they at least mutter disapprobation, though fear forbids them speak out ? Do they not condemn him in their hearts ? No : list the plaudits of the senate, of the lords of Byzantium, of the Grecian citizens of Rome. O people worthy of such a senate, senate worthy of such a consul ! To think that all these bear arms and use them not, that manly indignation reminds not of their sex those many whose thighs bear a sword ! Has my descendants’ robe of office sunk so low ? Is Brutus’ renown thus brought to scorn ?

“ Romulus, forgive thy sire for coming so tardy an avenger of those outraged fasces. Right soon will I make them pay for this joy with liberal tears. Why delayest thou, Bellona, to sound the trumpet of hell and to arm thyself with the scythe wherewith thou mowest the people to the ground ? Foment discord, banish pleasures. I am aweary of the devastation of Thrace and Macedon, of vengeance twice wreaked on races already buried. Arouse less accustomed destruction ; spread fire and sword beyond the seas, make a beginning of new devastation. Seek not now thy foe on Rhiphaeus’ heights : what boots it to rouse the storm of war amid Caucasias’ ravines ? Ostrogoths and Gruthungi together inhabit the land of Phrygia ; ’twill need but a touch



## CLAUDIAN

in scelus ; ad mores facilis natura reverti. 155  
 sic eat : in nostro quando iam milite robur  
 torpuit et molli didicit parere magistro,  
 vindicet Arctous violatas advena leges ;  
 barbara Romano succurrant arma pudori."

Sic fatus clipeo, quantum vix ipse deorum 160  
 arbiter infesto cum percutit aegida nimbo,  
 intonuit. responsat Athos Haemusque remugit ;  
 ingeminat raucum Rhodope concussa fragorem.  
 cornua cana gelu mirantibus extulit undis  
 Hebrus et exanguem glacie timor adligat Histrum. 165  
 tunc, adamante gravem nodisque rigentibus hastam,  
 telum ingens nullique deo iaculabile, torsit.  
 fit late ruptis via nubibus ; illa per auras  
 tot freta, tot montes uno contenta volatu  
 transilit et Phrygiae mediis adfigitur arvis. 170  
 sensit humus ; gemuit Nysaeo palmite felix  
 Hermus et aurata Pactolus inhorruit urna  
 totaque summissis fleverunt Dindyma silvis.

Nec dea praemissae stridorem segnius hastae  
 consequitur, centumque vias meditata nocendi 175  
 tandem Tarbigilum (Geticae dux improbus alae<sup>1</sup>  
 hic erat) adgreditur. viso tum forte redibat  
 Eutropio vacuus donis, feritasque dolore  
 creverat et, teneris etiam quae crimina suadet

<sup>1</sup> alae *Rubenus* ; *mss.* (followed by *Birt*) have aulae

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<sup>1</sup> Alluding to the Roman custom of casting a spear as a sign of the declaration of war ; *cf.* Ovid, *Fasti*, vi. 207—

Hinc solet hasta manu belli praenuntia mitti  
 In regem et gentes cum placet arma capi.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

to precipitate them into revolt ; readily does nature return to her old ways. So be it. Since our soldiers' valour is numbed and they have learned to obey an unmanned master, let a stranger from the north avenge our outraged laws and barbarian arms bring relief to disgraced Rome."

So spake he and thundered with his shield nigh as loud as the ruler of the gods when he shakes his aegis from out the lowering cloud. Athos replies, Haemus re-echoes ; again and again shaken Rhodope repeats the hoarse uproar. Hebrus raised from out the wondering waters his horns hoary with frost, and bloodless Ister froze in fear. Then the god cast his javelin,<sup>1</sup> heavy with steel, and stiff with knotted shaft, a mighty weapon such as none other god could wield. The clouds part before its onset and give it free passage ; through the air it speeds o'er seas and mountains by one mighty cast and comes to earth amid the plains of Phrygia. The ground felt the shock ; Hermus blessed with Dionysus' vines groaned thereat, Pactolus' golden urn shuddered, all Dindymus bent his forest fleece and wept.

Bellona, too, hastens forth with speed no less than that of Mars' whistling spear ; a hundred ways of hurt she pondered and at last approached Tarbigilus,<sup>2</sup> fierce leader of the Getic squadron. It chanced he had but late returned with empty hands from a visit to Eutropius ; disappointment and indignation aggravated his ferocity, and poverty, that can incite

<sup>1</sup> Tarbigilus seems to have belonged to the nation of the Gruthungi. The exact form of his name is a matter of uncertainty. The mss. vary : Zosimus (v. 13. 2) calls him *Τριβιγίλδος*. His revolt in Phrygia (cf. ll. 274, etc.) took place in 399.

## CLAUDIAN

ingeniis, Scythicum pectus flammabat egestas. 180  
 huic sese vultu simulatae coniugis offert  
 mentitoque ferox incedit barbara gressu,  
 carbaseos induta sinus : post terga reductas  
 uberibus propior mordebat fibula vestes,  
 inque orbem tereti mitra retinente capillum 185  
 strinxerat et virides flavescere iusserat angues.  
 advolat ac niveis reducem complectitur ulnis  
 infunditque animo furiale per oscula virus.  
 principe quam largo veniat, quas inde reportet  
 divitias, astu rabiem motura requirit. 190  
 ille iter ingratum, vanos deffere labores,  
 quos super eunuchi fastus, quae probra tulisset.  
 continuo secat ungue genas et tempore pandit  
 adrepto gemitus :

“ I nunc, devotus aratris

scinde solum positoque tuos mucrone sodales 195  
 ad rastros sudare doce. bene rura Gruthungus  
 excolet et certo disponet sidere vites.  
 felices aliae, quas debellata maritis  
 oppida, quas magnis quaesitae viribus ornant  
 exuviae, quibus Argivae pulchraeque ministrant 200  
 Thessalides, famulas et quae meruere Lacaenas.  
 me nimium timido, nimium iunxere remisso  
 fata viro, totum qui degener exuit Histrum,  
 qui refugit patriae ritus, quem detinet aequi  
 gloria concessoque cupit vixisse colonus 205  
 quam dominus raptō. quid pulchra vocabula pigris

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

the gentlest heart to crime, inflamed his savage breast. Taking upon her the similitude of his wife she comes to meet him ; proudly she steps forth like the barbarian queen, clothed in linen raiment. Close to her breast a brooch fastened her dress that trailed behind her ; she had bound her locks into a coil that a polished circlet confined, and bidden her green snakes turn to gold. She hastens to greet him on his return and throws her snowy arms about his neck, instilling the poison of the furies into his soul by her kisses. Guilefully to stir his rage she asks if the great man has been generous to him ; if he brings back rich presents. With tears he recounts his profitless journey, his useless toil, the pride and insults, moreover, which he had to bear at the eunuch's hands. At once she seized the favourable moment, and tearing her cheek with her nails, discloses her complaints.

“ Go then, busy thyself with the plough, cleave the soil, bid thy followers lay aside their swords and sweat o'er the harrow. The Gruthungi will make good farmers and will plant their vines in due season. Happy those other women whose glory is seen in the towns their husbands have conquered, they whose adornment is the spoils so hardly won from an enemy, whose servants are fair captives of Argos or Thessaly, and who have won them slaves from Sparta. Fate has mated me with too timid, too indolent a husband, a degenerate who has forgotten the valour of Ister's tribes, who deserts his country's ways, whom a vain reputation for justice attracts, while he longs to live as a husbandman by favour rather than as a prince by plunder. Why give fair names to shameful weak-

## CLAUDIAN

praetentas vitiis? probitatis inertia nomen,  
iustitiae formido subit. tolerabis iniquam  
pauperiem, cum tela geras? et flebis inultus,  
cum pateant tantae nullis custodibus urbes? 210

“Quippe metus poenae. pridem mos ille vige-  
bat, ut meritos colerent impacatisque rebelles  
urgerent odiis; at nunc, qui foedera rumpit,  
ditatur; qui servat, eget. vastator Achivae  
gentis et Epirum nuper populatus inultam 215  
praesidet Illyrico; iam, quos obsedit, amicos  
ingreditur muros illis responsa daturus,  
quorum coniugibus potitur natosque peremit.  
sic hostes punire solent, haec praemia solvunt  
excidiis. cunctaris adhuc numerumque tuorum 220  
respicias exiguamque manum? tu rumpe quietem;  
bella dabunt socios. nec te tam prona monerem,  
si contra paterere viros: nunc alter in armis  
sexus et eunuchis se defensoribus orbis  
credidit; hos aquilae Romanaque signa sequuntur.  
incipere barbaricae tandem te reddere vitae, 226  
te quoque iam timeant admirenturque nocentem,  
quem sprevere pium. spoliis praedaeque repletus  
cum libeat Romanus eris.”

Sic fata repente

in diram se vertit avem rostroque recurvo 230  
turpis et infernis tenebris obscurior alas  
auspiciu veteri sedit ferele sepulcro.

Ille, pavor postquam resoluta corde quievit

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<sup>1</sup> Alaric was made *magister militum* in Illyricum: see Introduction, p. x.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

ness? Cowardice is called loyalty; fear, a sense of justice. Wilt thou submit to humiliating poverty though thou bearest arms? Wilt thou weep un-avenged, though so many cities open to thee their undefended gates?

“Dost thou fear the consequences? Rome’s old way was to reward merit and vent on rebels a hate that knew no bound. Now he who breaks a treaty wins riches, while he who observes one lives in want. The ravager of Achaea and recent devastator of defenceless Epirus is lord of Illyria<sup>1</sup>; he now enters as a friend within the walls to which he was laying siege, and administers justice to those whose wives he has seduced and whose children he has murdered. Such is the punishment meted out to an enemy, such the vengeance exacted for wholesale slaughter—and dost thou still hesitate? Hast thou regard to the small numbers of thy followers? Nay, have done with peace: war will give thee allies. Nor would I urge thee so instantly hadst thou to face men. It is another sex that is in arms against thee; the world has entrusted itself to the protection of eunuchs; ’tis such leaders the eagles and standards of Rome follow. Time it is thou didst return to a barbarian life; be thou in thy turn an object of terror, and let men marvel at thy crimes who despised thy virtues. Laden with booty and plunder thou shalt be a Roman when it pleases thee.”

So saying she suddenly changed into an ill-omened bird, a loathsome sight with its hooked beak and plumage blacker than Hell’s darkness, and perched, a sinister augury, on an old tomb.

So soon as repose from terror came to his freed

## CLAUDIAN

et rigidae sedere comae, non distulit atrox  
iussa deae ; sociis, quae viderat, ordine pandit 235  
inritatque sequi. Coniurat barbara pubes  
nacta ducem Latiisque palam descivit ab armis.

Pars Phrygiae, Scythicis quaecumque Trionibus  
alget

proxima, Bithynos, solem quae condit, Ionas,  
quae levat, attingit Galatas. utrimque propinqui 240  
finibus obliquis Lydi Pisidaeque feroces

continuant australe latus. gens una fuere  
tot quondam populi, priscum cognomen et unum  
appellata Phryges ; sed (quid non longa valebit  
permutare dies ?) dicti post Maeona regem 245

Maeones. Aegaeos insedit Graecia portus ;  
Thyni Thraces arant quae nunc Bithynia fertur ;  
nuper ab Oceano Gallorum exercitus ingens  
illis ante vagus tandem regionibus haesit  
gaesaque deposuit, Graio iam mitis amictu, 250  
pro Rheno poturus Halyn. dat cuncta vetustas  
principium Phrygibus ; nec rex Aegyptius ultra  
restitit, humani postquam puer uberis expers  
in Phrygiam primum laxavit murmura vocem.

Hic cecidit Libycis iactata paludibus olim 255  
tibia, foedatam cum reddidit umbra Minervam,  
hic et Apollinea victus testudine pastor  
suspensa memores inlustrat pelle Celaenas.

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<sup>1</sup> The reference is to Herodotus ii. 2. Psammetichus, King of Egypt, wishing to find out which was the most ancient nation, had two children reared in complete silence. As the first word they uttered was "Becos," the Phrygian word for "bread," Phrygia was accorded the honour.

<sup>2</sup> Minerva is said to have thrown her pipe into the river  
202

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

heart, and his stiffened hair sank down again, he made all haste to carry out the commands of the goddess. He told his followers all that he had seen and invited them to follow him. Rebellious Barbary had found a champion and openly threw off the Latin yoke.

That part of Phrygia which lies towards the north beneath the cold constellation of the Wain borders on Bithynia; that towards the sunset on Ionia, and that towards the sunrise on Galatia. On two sides runs the transverse boundary of Lydia while the fierce Pisidians hem it in to the south. All these peoples once formed one nation and had one name: they were of old called the Phrygians, but (what changes does time not bring about?) after the reign of a king Maeon, were known as Maeones. Then the Greeks settled on the shores of the Aegean, and the Thyni from Thrace cultivated the region now called Bithynia. Not long since a vast army of Gauls, nomad hitherto, came at last to rest in the district; these laid by their spears, clothed them in the civilized robe of Greece and drank no longer from Rhine's, but from Halys' waters. All antiquity gives priority to the Phrygian, even Egypt's king had perforce to recognize it when the babe, nourished at no human breast, first opened his lips to lisp the Phrygian tongue.<sup>1</sup>

Here fell the pipe once hurled into the marshes of Lycia, what time the stream reflected Minerva's disfigured countenance.<sup>2</sup> Here, too, there perished, conquered by Apollo's lyre, the shepherd Marsyas whose flayed skin brought renown to the city of

when she observed in the reflection the facial contortions apparently necessary to play it; *cf.* Ovid, *Fasti*, vi. 699.



## CLAUDIAN

quattuor hinc magnis procedunt fontibus amnes  
auriferi ; nec miror aquas radiare metallo, 260  
quae totiens lavere Midân. diversus ad Austrum  
cursus et Arctoum fluviis mare. Dindyma fundunt  
Sangarium, vitrei puro qui gurgite Galli  
auctus Amazonii defertur ad ostia Ponti.

Icarium pelagus Mycalaeaque litora iuncti 265  
Marsya Maeanderque petunt ; sed Marsya velox,  
dum suus est, flexuque carens iam flumine mixtus  
mollitur, Maeandre, tuo ; contraria passus,  
quam Rhodano stimulatus Arar : quos inter aprica  
planities Cererique favet densisque ligatur 270  
vitibus et glaucae fructus attollit olivae,  
dives equis, felix pecori pretiosaque picto  
marmore purpureis, caedit quod Synnada, venis.

Talem tum Phrygiam Geticis populatibus uri  
permisere dei. securas barbarus urbes 275  
inrupit facilesque capi. spes nulla salutis,  
nulla fugae : putribus iam propugnacula saxis  
longo corruerant aevo pacisque senecta.

Interea gelidae secretis rupibus Idae  
dum sedet et thiasos spectat de more Cybebe 280  
Curetumque alacres ad tympana suscitât enses,  
aurea sanctarum decus immortale comarum  
defluxit capiti turris summoque volutus  
vertice crinalis violatur pulvere murus.  
obstipuere truces omen Corybantes et uno 285  
fixa metu tacitas presserunt orgia buxos.  
indoluit genetrix, tum sic commota profatur :

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

Celaenae. Hence flow four broad auriferous rivers. Small wonder that the waters in which King Midas bathed so often glitter with the rare metal. Two flow north, two southwards. Dindymus gives birth to the river Sangarius, which, swollen by the clear stream of the Gallus, hastens on to the Euxine, the sea of the Amazon. The conjoined streams of Marsyas and Meander make for the Icarian main and Mycale's strand. Marsyas flows fast and straight while his course is his own; mingled with thy waters, Meander, he goes slowly—unlike the Saône whose waters are hastened by the Rhone's inflowing. Between these rivers is a sun-kissed plain; kindly is it to the corn, thick-set with vines and displaying the fruit of the grey-green olive; rich, too, in horses, fertile in flocks, and wealthy with the purple-veined marble that Synnada quarries.

Such was Phrygia then when the gods allowed it to be ravaged by Getic brigands. The barbarian burst in upon those cities so peaceful, so easy of capture. There was no hope of safety, no chance of escape. Long and peaceful ages had made the crumbling stones of their battlements to fall.

Meanwhile Cybele was seated amid the hallowed rocks of cold Ida, watching, as is her wont, the dance, and inciting the joyous Curetes to brandish their swords at the sound of the drum, when, lo, the golden-turreted crown, the eternal glory of her blessed hair, fell from off her head and, rolling from her brow, the castellated diadem is profaned in the dust. The Corybantes stopped in amazement at this omen; general alarm checked their orgies and silenced their pipes. The mother of the gods wept; then spake thus in sorrow.

## CLAUDIAN

"Hoc mihi iam pridem Lachesis grandaeva canebat  
 augurium : Phrygiae casus venisse supremos  
 delapsus testatur apex. heu sanguine qualis 290  
 ibit Sangarius quantasque cadavera lenti  
 Maeandri passura moras ! immobilis haeret  
 terminus, haec dudum nato placuere Tonanti.  
 par et finitimis luctus, frustraue Lyaei  
 non defensuros implorat Lydia thyrsos. 295  
 iamque vale Phrygiae tellus perituraque flammis  
 moenia, conspicuas quae nunc attollitis arces,  
 mox campi nudumque solum ! dilecta valete  
 flumina ! non vestris ultra bacchabor in antris  
 nec iuga sulcabit noster Berecynthia currus." 300  
 dixit et ad tristes convertit tympana planctus.  
 labentem patriam sacris ululatibus Attis  
 personat et torvi lacrimis maduere leones.  
 Eutropius, nequeat quamvis metuenda taceri  
 clades et trepidus vulgaverit omnia rumor, 305  
 ignorare tamen fingit regnique ruinas  
 dissimulat : parvam latronum errare catervam,  
 ad sontes tormenta magis quam tela parari  
 nec duce frangendas iactat, sed iudice vires :  
 vasta velut Libyae venantum vocibus ales 310  
 cum premitur calidas cursu transmittit harenas  
 inque modum veli sinuatis flamine pennis  
 pulverulenta volat ; si iam vestigia retro  
 clara sonent, oblita fugae stat lumine clauso  
 (ridendum !) revoluta caput creditque latere, 315  
 quem non ipsa videt. furtim tamen ardua mittit  
 206

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

“This is the portent that aged Lachesis foretold long years ago. My fallen crown assures me that Phrygia’s final crisis is upon her. Alas for the blood that shall redden Sangarius’ waves; for all the corpses that shall retard Meander’s slow stream. The hour is fixed irrevocably; such, long since, was my son’s, the Thunderer’s, will. A like disaster awaits the neighbouring peoples; in vain does Lydia invoke the thyrsus of Bacchus in her defence. Now fare thee well, land of Phrygia, farewell, walls doomed to the flames, walls that now rear aloft proud towers but will soon be levelled with the ground and the bare earth. Farewell, dear rivers: never more shall I hold my inspired revels in your grottoes; no more shall my chariot leave the traces of its wheels on Berecynthus’ heights.” So spake she, and turned her drums to strains of mourning. Attis filled his devoted country with holy lamentations and Cybele’s tawny lions burst into tears.

Eutropius, although this terrible revolt could not be hid and although rumour had spread everywhere the dread news, none the less affects to ignore it and shuts his eyes to the empire’s peril. ’Twas some poor troop of wandering brigands; such wretches call for punishment not war; a judge—so he brags—not a general should crush their strength. Even so the great Libyan bird, hard pressed by the cries of its pursuers, runs o’er the burning sands and flies through the dust, curving its wings like sails to catch the breeze; but when it clearly hears the footsteps close behind it, it forgets its flight, standing with closed eyes and hiding its head, believing, poor fool, it cannot be seen by those whom itself cannot see. None the less Eutropius

## CLAUDIAN

cum donis promissa novis, si forte rogatus  
desinat. ille semel nota dulcedine praedae  
se famulo servire negat, nec grata timentum  
munera ; militiam nullam nec prima superbus 320  
cingula dignari ; nam quis non consule tali  
vilis honos ?

Postquam precibus mitescere nullis,  
non auro cessisse videt creberque recurrit  
nuntius incassum nec spes iam foederis extat :  
tandem consilium belli confessus agendi 325  
ad sua tecta vocat. iuvenes venere protervi  
lascivique senes, quibus est insignis edendi  
gloria corruptasque dapes variasse decorum,  
qui ventrem invitant pretio traduntque palato  
sidereas Iunonis aves et si qua loquendi 330  
gnara coloratis viridis defertur ab Indis,  
quaesitos trans regna cibos, quorumque profundam  
ingluviem non Aegaeus, non alta Propontis,  
non freta longinquis Maeotia piscibus explent  
vestis odoratae studium ; laus maxima risum 335  
per vanos movisse sales minimeque viriles  
munditiae ; compti vultus ; onerique vel ipsa  
serica. si Chunos feriat, si Sarmata portas,  
solliciti scaenae ; Romam contemnere sueti  
mirarique suas, quas Bosphorus obruat ! aedes ; 340  
saltandi dociles aurigarumque periti.

Pars humili de plebe duces ; pars compede suras

<sup>1</sup> Claudian uses the word *cingulum* (=a soldier's belt) as = military service—a not uncommon late use, cf. Serv. *Aen.* viii. 724 and (frequently) *cingi* = to serve, in the Digests.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. the peacock.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

sends towering promises with new gifts, if haply his foe may pause at his entreaty. But the barbarian, in whose heart was once waked the old love of plunder, refuses to submit to a slave; for him the gifts of fear have no charm; haughtily he disdains any rank,<sup>1</sup> even the highest, for under such a consul what honour would not be disgrace?

When Eutropius saw that no prayers could move him nor any gold win him over; when messenger after messenger returned, his mission unfulfilled, and all hopes of an alliance were at an end, he at last recognized the necessity for war and summoned the council to his palace. Thither they came—wanton lads and debauched greybeards whose greatest glory was gluttony, and whose pride it was to diversify the outraged banquet. Their hunger is only aroused by costly meats, and they tickle their palates with foods imported from overseas, the flesh of the many-eyed fowl of Juno,<sup>2</sup> or of that coloured bird brought from farthest Ind that knows how to speak. Not the Aegean, not deep Propontis, not Maeotis' lake afar can sate their appetites with fish. Perfumed garments are their care, their pride to move foolish laughter with their silly jests. On their adornment and toilette they bestow a woman's care and find even the silk they wear too heavy a burden. Should the Hun, the Sarmatian, strike at the city's gates yet trouble they for nought but the theatre. Rome they despise and reserve their admiration for their own houses—may Bosphorus' waters overwhelm them! Skilful dancers they and clever charioteers.

Some sprung from the dregs of the people are generals; some magistrates—though their legs and

## CLAUDIAN

cruraque signati nigro liventia ferro  
iura regunt, facies quamvis inscripta repugnet  
seque suo prodat titulo. sed prima potestas 345  
Eutropium praefert Hosio subnixa secundo.  
dulcior hic sane cunctis prudensque movendi  
iuris et admoto qui temperet omnia fumo,  
fervidus, accensam sed qui bene decoquat iram.  
considunt apices gemini dicionis Eoae, 350  
hic cocus, hic leno, defossi verberare terga,  
servitio, non arte pares, hic saepius emptus,  
alter ad Hispanos nutritus verna penates.

Ergo ubi collecti procures, qui rebus in artis  
consulerent tantisque darent solacia morbis, 355  
obliti subito Phrygiae bellisque relictis  
ad solitos coepere iocos et iurgia circi  
tendere. nequiquam magna configitur ira,  
quis melius vibrata puer vertigine molli  
membra rotet, verrat quis marmora crine supino ? 360  
quis magis enodes laterum detorqueat arcus,<sup>1</sup>  
quis vocis digitos, oculos quis moribus aptet ?  
hi tragicos meminere modos ; his fabula Tereus,  
his necdum commissa choro cantatur Agave.

Increpat Eutropius : non haec spectacula tempus  
poscere ; nunc alias armorum incumbere curas ; 366  
se satis Armenio fessum pro limite cingi

<sup>1</sup> *Birt artus ; I return to the vulg. arcus*

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<sup>1</sup> Hosius, by birth a Spaniard, had been a slave and a cook—whence these various double meanings. He rose to be *magister officiorum* at the court of Arcadius (*circa* 396-8).

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

ankles are still scarred and livid with their wearing of the fetters of servitude and though their branded foreheads deny their owners' right to office and disclose their true title. Among them Eutropius holds the first place; Hosius, on whom he relies, comes next. He of a truth is more popular, a cunning artificer of justice who knows well how to steam his cases; at times boiling with anger, yet well able to render down that anger when aroused.<sup>1</sup> These sit enthroned, joint rulers of the eastern empire, the one a cook the other a pander. The backs of both are scarred with the whip, each was a slave though of a different kind. The one had been bought and sold a hundred times, the other brought up a dependant in a Spanish household.

When, therefore, the chief men were gathered together for consultation in this strait and to comfort the sickness of the state, forthwith they forget Phrygia and, setting aside the question of war, start their accustomed fooling and engage in disputes about the Circus. With heat as fierce as it is pointless they wrangle what boy can best whirl quivering limbs in an easy somersault or sweep the marble floor with his drooping locks; who can most twist his flanks into a boneless arch; who can best suit his gestures to his words and his eyes to his character. Some recite speeches from tragedy, others chant the play of Tereus, others again that of Agave, never before staged.

Eutropius chides them; the present moment, says he, demands other spectacles than these; it is war which now should claim all their care. For his part (for he is an old man and a weary) it is enough to defend the frontiers of Armenia; single-



## CLAUDIAN

nec tantis unum subsistere posse periclis ;  
 ignoscant senio, iuvenes ad proelia mittant :—  
 qualis pauperibus nutrix invisa puellis 370  
 adsidet et tela communem quaerere victum  
 rauca monet ; festis illae luisse diebus  
 orant et positis aequaevas visere pensis,  
 irataeque operi iam lasso pollice fila  
 turbant et teneros detergent stamine fletus. 375

Emicat extemplo cunctis trepidantibus audax  
 crassa mole Leo, quem vix Cyclopia solum  
 aequatura fames, quem non ieiuna Celaeno  
 vinceret ; hinc nomen fertur meruisse Leonis.  
 acer in absentes linguae iactator, abundans 380  
 corporis exiguusque animi, doctissimus artis  
 quondam lanificae, moderator pectinis unci.  
 non alius lanam purgatis sordibus aequae  
 praebuerit calathis, similis nec pingua quisquam  
 vellera per tenues ferri producere rimas. 385  
 tunc Ajax erat Eutropii lateque fremebat,  
 non septem vasto quatiens umbone iuencos,  
 sed, quam perpetuis dapibus pigroque sedili  
 inter anus interque colos oneraverat, alvum.  
 adsurgit tandem vocemque expromit anhelam : 390

“ Quis novus hic torpor, socii ? quonam usque  
 sedemus

femineis clausi thalamis patimurque periculum  
 gliscere desidia ? graviorum turba malorum  
 texitur, ignavis trahimus dum tempora votis.  
 me petit hic sudor. numquam mea dextera segnis  
 ad ferrum. faveat tantum Tritonia coepts, 396

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<sup>1</sup> Gainas and Leo were sent by Eutropius to put down the revolt of Tarbigilus. Gainas, however, never left the Hellespont and Leo, advancing into Pamphylia, there met, and was defeated by, Tarbigilus (Zosim. v. 16. 5). We gather from Claudian that he had once been a weaver.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

handed he cannot cope with all these perils. They must pardon his age and send younger men to the war:—it is as though a hated forewoman were sitting among a crowd of poor working-girls and bidding them in her raucous voice ply the loom and gain their livelihood, while they beg to be allowed the enjoyment of a holiday, to lay aside their tasks and visit their friends; angered at her refusal and wearied of their work they crush the threads in their hands and wipe away their gentle tears with the cloth.

Sudden from out that trembling throng upheaps bold Leo <sup>1</sup> with his vast bulk, he whose single prowess Cyclopean hunger could scarce match, whom starving Celaeno could not outvie. 'Tis to this fact that he is said to have owed his name. Bold (when his foe was absent), brave (as a speaker), great in bulk but small of heart, once a highly skilled spinner of thread and a cunning carder, none other could so well cleanse the dirt from out the fleece and fill the baskets, none other pull the thick wool over the iron teeth of the comb as could he. He was then Eutropius' Ajax and far and near he raged, shaking not a huge shield compact of seven layers of ox-hide, but that belly of his, laden with continuous feastings, as he sat lazily among old dames and distaffs. At length he arose and, panting, said, "What unwonted sluggishness is this, my friends? How long must we sit closeted in the women's apartments and suffer our perils to increase by reason of our sloth? Fate weaves for us a network of ill while we waste our time in useless vows. This difficult task demands my action; never was my hand slow to use iron. Let but Minerva favour

## CLAUDIAN

inceptum peragetur opus. iam cuncta furorem  
 qui gravat, efficiam leviolem pondere lanae  
 Tarbigilum timidum, desertoresque Gruthungos  
 ut miseras populabor oves et pace relata 400  
 pristina restituam Phrygias ad stamina matres."

His dictis iterum sedit; fit plausus et ingens  
 concilii clamor, qualis resonantibus olim  
 exoritur caveis, quotiens crinitus ephebus  
 aut rigidam Nioben aut flentem Troada fingit. 405  
 protinus excitis iter inremeabile signis  
 adripit infaustoque iubet bubone moveri  
 agmina Mygdonias mox impletura volucres.

Pulcher et urbanae cupiens exercitus umbrae,  
 adsiduus ludis, avidus splendere lavacris 410  
 nec soles imbresve pati, multumque priori  
 dispar, sub clipeo Thracum qui ferre pruinas,  
 dum Stilicho regeret, nudoque hiemare sub axe  
 sueverat et duris haurire bipennibus Hebrum.  
 cum duce mutatae vires. Byzantia robur 415  
 fregit luxuries Ancyranique triumphi.  
 non peditem praecedat eques; non comoda castris  
 eligitur regio; vicibus custodia nullis  
 advigilat vallo; non explorantur eundae  
 vitandaeque viae; nullo se cornua flectunt 420  
 ordine: confusi passim per opaca vagantur  
 lustra, per ignotas angusto tramite valles.

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<sup>1</sup> *Triumph* is ironical. Claudian refers to Eutropius' pleasure journey to Ancyra; cf. l. 98 of this poem.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

mine attempts and the work begun will be the work completed. Now will I render proud Tarbigilus, whose madness has caused all this turmoil, of less weight than a ball of wool, the Gruthungi I will drive before me like a flock of wretched sheep ; and when I have restored peace I will set the women of Phrygia once more beside their ancient spinning."

So saying he sat down again. Great clamour and applause filled the council-chamber, applause such as rises from the rows of spectators in the theatre when some curled youth impersonates Niobe turned to stone, or Hecuba in tears. Straightway Leo unfolds his banners and starts on the journey whence there is to be no return. To the accompaniment of the screech-owl's ill-omened cry he bids march the host destined so soon to feed the vultures of Mygdonia.

"Tis a well-favoured army, enamoured of the city's shade, ever present at the games, anxious to shine in the baths, not to bear sun-scorch and rain, and oh ! how different to that former army who, 'neath the leadership of Stilicho, endured under arms the frosts of Thrace and were wont to winter in the open air and break with their axes the frozen waters of Hebrus for a draught. Changed is the leader and changed their character. Byzantium's luxury and Ancyra's pomp<sup>1</sup> have destroyed their vigour. No longer does the cavalry ride ahead of the foot ; suitable ground is not chosen for camps ; no constant change of sentries safeguards the ramparts, no scouts are sent forward to discover which roads to take or which to avoid ; their evolutions are performed without drill or discipline, in confusion they stray hither and thither amid dark forests, along narrow

## CLAUDIAN

sic vacui rectoris equi, sic orba magistro  
 fertur in abruptum casu, non sidere, puppis ;  
 sic ruit in rupes amisso pisce sodali 425  
 belua, sulcandas qui praevis edocet undas  
 inmensumque pecus parvae moderamine caudae  
 temperat et tanto coniungit foedera monstro ;  
 illa natat rationis inops et caeca profundum ;  
 iam brevibus deprensa vadis ignara reverti 430  
 palpitat et vanos scopulis inludit hiatus.

Tarbigilus simulare fugam flatuque Leonis  
 spe nutrire leves improvisusque repente,  
 dum gravibus marcent epulis hostique catenas  
 inter vina crepant, largo sopita Lyaeo 435  
 castra subit. pereunt alii, dum membra cubili  
 tarda levant ; alii leto iunxere soporem ;  
 ast alios vicina palus sine more ruentes  
 excipit et cumulis inmanibus aggerat undas.  
 ipse Leo damma ceruoque fugacior ibat 440  
 sudanti tremebundus equo : qui pondere postquam  
 decidit, implicitus limo cunctantia pronus  
 per vada reptabat. caeno subnixa tenaci  
 mergitur et pingui suspirat corpore moles  
 more suis, dapibus quae iam devota futuris 445  
 turpe gemit, quotiens Hosius mucrone corusco  
 armatur cingitque sinus secumque volutat,  
 quas figat verubus partes, quae frustra calenti

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<sup>1</sup> The *balaena* or whale. According to ancient naturalists the *balaena* entered into an alliance with the *musculus* or sea-mouse which, in Pliny's words, "vada prae-natans demonstrat oculorumque vice fungitur" (Pliny, *H.N.* ix. 186).

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

paths in unexplored valleys. So goes a horse that has lost his rider, thus a ship whose helmsman has been drowned is swept to the abyss, chance guiding her and not the stars. So too the sea monster<sup>1</sup> is dashed to pieces against the rocks when it has lost the comrade fish that swam before it and guided its course through the waves, piloting the great beast with the motion of its tiny tail according to the compact which is between it and its huge companion. Aimlessly the monster swims all unguided through the deep; then, surprised in the shallow water and knowing not how to return to the sea, pants and to no purpose dashes its gaping jaws against the rocks.

Tarbigilus feigns retreat and raises the presumptuous hopes of Leo, then suddenly he bursts all unexpected upon the wine-sodden army, as, overcome by the heavy feast, they brag over their cups of leading the foe in chains. Some are slain as they lift their sluggish limbs from the couch, others know not any break between sleep and death. Others rush pell-mell into a neighbouring swamp and heap the marsh high with their dead bodies. Leo himself, swifter than deer or antelope, fled trembling on his foam-flecked horse, and it falling under his weight Leo sank in the mire and on all fours fought his way through the clinging slime. Held up at first by the thick mud, his fat body gradually settles down panting like a common pig, which, destined to grace the coming feast, squeals when Hosius arms him with flashing knife, and gathers up his garments, pondering the while what portions he will transfix with spits, which pieces of the flesh he will boil and how much sea-urchin

## CLAUDIAN

mandet aquae quantoque cutem distendat echino.  
flagrat opus ; crebro pulsatus perstrepat ictu ;<sup>1</sup> 450  
contextit varius penetrans Calchedona nidor.

Ecce levis frondes a tergo concutit aura :  
credit tela Leo ; valuit pro vulnere terror  
implevitque vicem iaculi, vitamque nocentem  
integer et sola formidine saucius efflat. 455  
quis tibi tractandos pro pectine, degener, enses,  
quis solio campum praeponere suasit avito ?  
quam bene texentum laudabas carmina tutus  
et matutinis pellebas frigora mensis !  
hic miserande iaces ; hic, dum tua vellera vitas, 460  
tandem fila tibi neverunt ultima Parcae.

Iam vaga pallentem densis terroribus aulam  
fama quatit ; stratas acies, deleta canebat  
agmina, Maeonios foedari caedibus agros,  
Pamphylos Pisidasque rapi. metuendus ab omni 465  
Tarbigilus regione tonat ; modo tendere cursum  
in Galatas, modo Bithynis incumbere fertur.  
sunt qui per Cilicas rupto descendere Tauro,  
sunt qui correptis ratibus terraque marique  
adventare ferant ; geminantur vera pavoris 470  
ingenio : longe spectari puppibus urbes  
accensas, lucere fretum ventoque citatas  
omnibus in pelago velis haerere favillas.

Hos inter strepitus funestior advolat alter

<sup>1</sup> *I print Birt's text ; but unless pulsatus be taken as a substantive (Baehrens' suggestion, cf. P. Lat. Min. v. p. 120 l. 169) it is untranslatable. Emendations proposed are pulso Cos . . . icta Barthius ; pulsatus aper strepit Buecheler ; cultri sus or pulpae ius Birt. The sense demands, however, some such word as Bosporus to make a parallelism with Calchedona. Possibly the line ended pulsatur Bosporus ictu, perstrepat being a gloss on pulsatur and eventually ousting Bosporus.*

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

stuffing will be needed to fill the empty skin. The work of preparation goes on apace, Bosphorus echoes to many a blow and the savoury smell envelops Chalcedon.

Suddenly a gentle breeze stirs the foliage behind Leo's back. He thinks it an arrow, and terror, taking a missile's place, does duty for a wound. Untouched and stricken only by fear he breathes his last. Degenerate Roman, by whose advice didst thou exchange the comb for the sword, thine ancestral calling for the field of battle? How much better to praise in safety the work of the weavers at their looms and keep out the cold by means of morning feasts. Here thou hast suffered a wretched death; here, while thou soughtest to shirk thy spinning, the Fates have at last spun for thee the final thread.

Now spreading rumour shakes the palace, pale with terror upon terror. It told how that the army was destroyed, the troops butchered, the plain of Mygdonia red with slaughter, Pamphylia and Pisidia o'errun by the enemy. On all sides rings the dread name of Tarbigilus. He is now said to be bearing down upon Galatia, now to be meditating an attack on Bithynia. Some say he has crossed the Taurus and is descending upon Cilicia, others that he has possessed himself of a fleet and is advancing both by land and sea. Truth is doubled by panic's fancy; they say that from the ships far cities are seen ablaze, that the straits are aglow and that ashes driven by the wind catch in the sails of every ship at sea.

Amid all this confusion comes a yet more terrible



## CLAUDIAN

nuntius : armatam rursus Babylona minari 475  
 rege novo ; resides Parthos ignava perosos  
 otia Romanae finem iam quaerere paci.  
 rarus apud Medos regum cruor ; unaque cuncto  
 poena manet generi : quamvis crudelibus aequè  
 paretur dominis. sed quid non audeat annus 480  
 Eutropii ? socium nobis fidumque Saporem  
 perculit et Persas in regia vulnera movit  
 rupturasque fidem, leto pars ne qua vacaret,  
 Eumenidum taedas trans flumina Tigridis egit.  
 Tum vero cecidere animi tantisque procellis 485  
 deficiunt. saepti latrantibus undique bellis  
 infensos tandem superos et consulis omen  
 agnovere sui, nec iam revocabile damnum  
 eventu stolido serum didicere magistro.  
 namque ferunt geminos uno de semine fratres 490  
 Iapetionidas generis primordia nostri  
 dissimili finxisse manu : quoscumque Prometheus  
 excoluit multumque innexuit aethera limo,  
 hi longe ventura notant dubiisque parati  
 casibus occurrunt fabro meliore politi. 495  
 deteriore luto pravus quos edidit auctor,  
 quem merito Grai perhibent Epimethea vates,  
 et nihil aetherii sparsit per membra vigoris,  
 hi pecudum ritu non impendentia vitant  
 nec res ante vident ; accepta clade queruntur 500  
 et seri transacta gemunt.

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<sup>1</sup> Varanes IV., who, like his three predecessors, Artaxerxes, Sapor III., and Varanes III., had observed a truce with Rome, died in 399 and was succeeded by Isdigerdes. For all Claudian's real or simulated anxiety this monarch was as peaceably disposed as the previous ones (see Oros. vii. 34). Claudian seems to have made an error in calling him Sapor (l. 481).

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

rumour—that Babylon is again in arms and, under a new monarch,<sup>1</sup> threatens our Empire; the Parthians, long inactive, and now scorning slothful ease, seek to put an end to the peace imposed by Rome. Rare among the Medes is the murder of a king, for punishment falls on the regicide's whole family. Thus equal obedience is offered to their overlords, cruel as well as kind. But what would not the year of Eutropius' consulship dare? 'Tis that has stricken down our faithful ally Sapor and roused the Persians' swords against their own king; that has cast the torch of the Furies across the Euphrates, there to kindle rebellion, that no quarter of the globe may escape carnage.

Then indeed men's hearts failed them, their courage ebbed away amid all these storms; surrounded as they were on every side by the din of war, at last they recognized the wrath of heaven and their consul's evil omen, learning too late—schooled by the stubborn issue—their now irrevocable doom. They say that the twin sons of Iapetus formed our first parents of the same materials but with unequal skill. Those whom Prometheus fashioned, and with whose clay he mingled abundant ether, foresee the distant future and, thanks to their more careful making by a better workman, are thus prepared to meet what fate has in store for them. Those framed of baser clay by the sorry artificer the Greek poets so well call Epimetheus, men through whose limbs no ethereal vigour spreads—these, like sheep, cannot avoid the dangers that o'erhang them, nor foresee aught. Not till the blow has fallen do they protest and weep too late the accomplished deed.

## CLAUDIAN

Iam sola renidet

in Stilichone salus, et cuius semper acerbum  
ingratumque sibi factorum conscius horror  
credidit adventum, quem si procedere tantum  
Alpibus audissent, mortem poenasque tremebant,  
iam cuncti venisse volunt, scelerumque priorum 506  
paenitet ; hoc tantis bellorum sidus in undis  
sperant, hoc pariter iusti sontesque precantur :  
ceu pueri, quibus alta pater trans aequora merces  
devehit, intenti ludo studiisque soluti 510  
latius amoto passim custode vagantur ;  
si gravis auxilio vacuas invaserit aedes  
vicinus laribusque suis proturbet inultos,  
tum demum patrem implorant et nomen inani  
voce cient frustra que oculos ad litora tendunt. 515

Omnes supplicio dignos letoque fatentur,  
qui se tradiderint famulis Stilichone relicto.  
mutati stupuere diu sensuque reducto  
paulatim proprii mirantur monstra furoris  
avertuntque oculos : proiectis fascibus horret 520  
lictor et infames labuntur sponte secures :  
quales Aonio Thebas de monte reversae  
Maenades infectis Pentheo sanguine thyrsis,  
cum patuit venatus atrox matrique rotatum  
conspexere caput, gressus caligine figunt 525  
et rabiem desisse dolent. quin protinus ipsa  
tendit ad Italiam supplex Aurora potentem

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

There now shone forth but one hope of salvation—Stilicho. Him the expectation of whose visits the consciousness of deeds ill-done had ever rendered bitter and unpleasant, him whose approach even as far as the Alps afflicted the Byzantines with fear of death and punishment, all now long to come, repentant of their former wrongdoing. To him they look as to a star amid this universal shipwreck of war ; to him innocent and guilty alike address their prayers. So children whose sire carries merchandise across the sea, wrapt up in their amusements and heedless of their studies, wander afield more joyfully now that their guardian is absent, yet, should a dangerous neighbour invade their defenceless home and seek to drive them forth unprotected as they are from their fireside, *then* they beg their father's help, call upon his name with useless cries and all to no purpose direct their gaze towards the shore.

All admit that they deserve punishment and death for deserting Stilicho and entrusting themselves to the governance of slaves. Long they stood dazed with altered thoughts, and as their senses slowly return they marvel at the results of their own madness and turn away their eyes ; flinging down his rods the lictor shudders, and the dishonoured axes fall of their own accord. Even so the Maenads returning to Thebes from the Aonian mount, their thyrses dripping with Pentheus' blood, learning the true character of their dreadful hunting and seeing the head cast by the mother herself, hide them in the darkness and lament the end of their madness. Thereupon suppliant Aurora turned her flight towards powerful Italy, her hair no

## CLAUDIAN

non radiis redimita comam, non flammea vultu  
nec croceum vestita diem ; stat livida luctu,  
qualis erat Phrygio tegeret cum Memnona busto.  
quam simul agnovit Stilicho nec causa latebat, 531  
restitit ; illa manum victricem amplexa moratur  
altaque vix lacrimans inter suspiria fatur :

“ Tantane te nostri ceperunt taedia mundi ?  
sic me ludibrium famulis risumque relinquis . 535  
dux quondam rectorque meus ? solamque tueris  
Hesperiam ? domiti nec te post bella tyranni  
cernere iam licuit ? sic te victoria nobis  
eripuit Gallisque dedit ? Rufinus origo  
prima mali : geminas inter discordia partes 540  
hoc auctore fuit. sed iam maiora moventi  
occurrit iusta rediens exercitus ira,  
fortis adhuc ferrique memor. brevis inde reluxit  
falsaque libertas ; rursum Stilichonis habenis  
sperabam me posse regi. pro caeca futuri 545  
gaudia ! fraterno coniungi coeperat orbis  
imperio (quis enim tanto terrore recentis  
exempli paribus sese committeret ausis ?),  
cum subito (monstrosa mihi turpisque relatu  
fabula) Rufini castratus prosilit heres, 550  
et similes iterum luctus Fortuna reduxit,  
ut solum domini sexum mutasse viderer.

“ Hic primum thalami claustris delicta tegebat  
clam timideque iubens ; erat invidiosa potestas,  
sed tamen eunuchi, necdum sibi publica iura 555

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* that of Rufinus.

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

longer aureole-crowned and she no more bright of countenance nor clothed with the saffron of the dawn. She stands wan with woe, even as when she buried Memnon in his Phrygian grave. Stilicho recognized her and stayed, well knowing the reason of her visit. Long time she clasped his victorious hand and at length amid tears and sighs addressed him.

“Why art thou so wearied of the world whereon I shine? Leavest thou me thus to be the sport and laughing-stock of slaves and carest only for Italy, thou that wert once my guide and my leader? Since thy victory over the tyrant Eugenius I have not seen thee. Has victory thus robbed me of thee and given thee to Gaul? Rufinus was the prime cause of the trouble; ’twas he who wrought disunion between the two empires. But when he aimed at more there met him an army returning in righteous wrath, an army still strong, still mindful of its former prowess. For a moment I was dazzled by the mirage of liberty: I hoped that Stilicho would once more hold the reins of our empire. Alas for my short-sighted happiness! The world had begun to form one single empire under the rule of the two brothers (for who, with the awful example<sup>1</sup> so fresh in his mind, would dare embark upon a like venture?) when suddenly (it is a monstrous story which scarce bears the telling) a eunuch came forward as Rufinus’ heir. Thus fortune brought back my former miseries with this one difference—that of changing my master’s sex.

At first he kept his crimes hidden behind the doors of his chamber, an unseen and timid ruler; power was his that all envied, yet only a eunuch’s, nor dared he yet arrogate to himself the right of

## CLAUDIAN

sumere nec totas audebat vertere leges.  
 at postquam pulsisque bonis et faece retenta  
 peiores legit socios dignusque satelles  
 hinc Hosius stetit, inde Leo, fiducia crevit  
 regnandique palam flagravit aperta libido. 560  
 patricius, consul maculat quos vendit honores,  
 plus maculat quos ipse gerit. iam signa tubaeque  
 mollescunt, ipsos ignavia fluxit in enses.  
 exultant merito gentes facilisque volenti  
 praeda sumus. iam Bistoniis Haemoque nivali 565  
 vastior expulsis Oriens squalescit aratris.  
 ei mihi, quas urbes et quanto tempore Martis  
 ignaras uno rapuerunt proelia cursu !  
 nuper ab extremo veniens equitatus Araxe  
 terruit Antiochi muros, ipsumque decorae 570  
 paene caput Syriae flammis hostilibus arsit.  
 utque gravis spoliis nulloque obstante profunda  
 laetus caede redit, sequitur mucrone secundo  
 continuum vulnus ; nec iam mihi Caucasus hostes  
 nec mittit gelidus Phasis ; nascuntur in ipso 575  
 bella sinu. legio pridem Romana Gruthungi,  
 iura quibus victis dedimus, quibus arva domusque  
 praebuimus, Lydos Asiaeque uberrima vastant  
 ignibus et si quid tempestas prima reliquit.  
 nec vi nec numero freti ; sed inertia nutrit 580  
 proditioque ducum, quorum per crimina miles  
 226

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

governing the state or of trampling on the laws. But when he had banished the good and, retaining the dregs of the people, had chosen therefrom advisers of no worth; when his creature Hosius stood on his one side and Leo on the other, then indeed his self-confidence waxed and his lust for power broke forth into open flame. Patrician and consul he brought defilement on the honours he sold; even greater defilement on those he carried himself. The very standards and trumpets of war grew feeble; a palsy seized upon our swords. What wonder the nations rejoiced and we became the easy prey of any who would subdue us? Gone are ploughs and ploughmen; the East is more a desert than Thrace and snowy Haemus. Alas! how many cities, how long unused to war's alarms, have perished in a single invasion! Not long since a mounted band coming from Araxes' farthest banks threatened the walls of Antioch and all but set fire to the chief city of the fair province of Syria. Laden with spoil and rejoicing in the vast carnage it had wrought the band returned with none to bar its passage; now it pursues its victorious career inflicting on me wound upon wound. 'Tis not now Caucasus nor cold Phasis that send forces against me; wars arise in the very centre of my empire. Time was when the Gruthungi formed a Roman legion; conquered we gave them laws; fields and dwelling-places we apportioned them. Now they lay waste with fire Lydia and the richest cities of Asia, ay, and everything that escaped the earlier storm. 'Tis neither on their own valour or numbers that they rely; it is our cowardice urges them on, cowardice and the treason of generals, through whose guilt our soldiers now



## CLAUDIAN

captivis dat terga suis, quos teste subegit  
Danuvio partemque timet qui reppulit omnes.

“ Aula choris epulisque vacat nec perdita curat,  
dum superest aliquid. ne quid tamen orbe reciso  
venditor amittat, provincia quaeque superstes 586  
dividitur geminumque duplex passura tribunal  
cogitur alterius pretium sarcire peremptae.  
sic mihi restituunt populos ; hac arte reperta  
rektorum numerum terris pereuntibus augent. 590

“ In te iam spes una mihi. pro fronde Minervae  
has tibi protendo lacrimas : succurre ruenti,  
eripe me tandem, servilibus eripe regnis.  
neve adeo cunctos paucorum crimine damnes  
nec nova tot meritis offensa prioribus obstat. 595  
iamiam flecte animum. suprema pericula semper  
dant veniam culpae. quamvis iratus et exul  
pro patriae flammis non distulit arma Camillus.  
nec te subtrahimus Latio ; defensor utrique  
sufficis. armorum liceat splendore tuorum 600  
in commune frui ; clipeus nos protegat idem  
unaque pro gemino desudet cardine virtus.”

## AGAINST EUTROPIUS, II

flee before their own captives, whom, as Danube's stream well knows, they once subdued ; and those now fear a handful who once could drive back all.

Meanwhile the palace devotes its attention to dances and feastings, and cares not what be lost so something remain. But lest our salesman lose aught by this dismemberment of the empire he has divided each remaining province into two, and forces the two halves, each under its own governor, to compensate him for the loss of other provinces. 'Tis thus they give me back my lost peoples : by this ingenious device they increase the number of my rulers while the lands they should rule are lost.

In thee is now my only hope ; in place of Minerva's supplicating branch I offer thee my tears. Help me in my distress. Save me from this tyranny of a slave master ; do not condemn all for the fault of a few, and let not a recent offence cancel former merits. Grant me now my request ; extreme danger ever exonerates from blame. Camillus, though justly angered at his banishment, forebore not to succour his country when in flames. I seek not to draw thee away from Italy ; thou art enough defence for both empires. Let both have the benefit of thine illustrious arms ; let the same shield defend us and one hero work the salvation of a twofold world."

FESCENNINA  
DE NUPTIIS HONORII AUGUSTI

I. (XI.)

Princeps corusco sidere pulchrior,  
Parthis sagittas tendere doctior,  
eques Gelonis imperiosior,  
quae digna mentis laus erit arduae ? 5  
quae digna formae laus erit igneae ?  
te Leda mallet quam dare Castorem ;  
praefert Achilli te proprio Thetis ;  
victum fatetur Delos Apollinem ;  
credit minorem Lydia Liberum. 10  
tu cum per altas impiger ilices  
praedo citatum cornipedem reges  
ludentque ventis instabiles comae,  
telis iacebunt sponte tuis ferae  
gaudensque sacris vulneribus leo 15  
admittet hastam morte superbior.  
Venus reversum spernit Adonidem,  
damnat reductum Cynthia Virbium.  
Cum post labores sub platani voles  
virentis umbra vel gelido specu  
torrentiorem fallere Sirium 20  
et membra somno fessa resolveris :  
o quantus uret tum Dryadas calor !  
quot aestuantes ancipiti gradu  
furtiva carpent oscula Naides !

## FESCENNINE VERSES IN HONOUR OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE EMPEROR HONORIUS<sup>1</sup>

### I (XI)

Prince, fairer than the day-star, who shootest thine arrows with an aim more sure than the Parthian's, rider more daring than the Geloni, what praise shall match thy lofty mind, what praise thy brilliant beauty? Leda would rather have thee her son than Castor; Thetis counts thee dearer than her own Achilles; Delos' isle admits thee Apollo's victor; Lydia puts Bacchus second to thee. When in the heat of the chase thou guidest thy coursing steed amid the towering holm-oaks and thy tossing locks stream out upon the wind, the beasts of their own accord will fall before thine arrows and the lion, right gladly wounded by a prince's sacred hand, will welcome thy spear and be proud so to die. Venus scorns Adonis returned from the dead, Diana disapproves Hippolytus recalled to life.

When after thy toils thou seekest the shade of a green plane-tree or shunnest Sirius' extreme heat in some cool grot and freest thy wearied limbs in sleep, what a passion of love will inflame the Dryads' hearts! how many a Naiad will steal up with trembling foot and snatch an unmarked kiss! Who,

<sup>1</sup> The marriage of Honorius and Maria, daughter of Stilicho, took place at Milan, Feb. 398.

## CLAUDIAN

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| quis vero acerbis horridior Scythis, | 25 |
| quis beluarum corde furentior,       |    |
| qui, cum micantem te prope viderit,  |    |
| non optet ultro servitium pati,      |    |
| qui non catenas adripiat libens      |    |
| colloque poscat vincula libero ?     |    |
| tu si nivalis per iuga Caucasi       | 30 |
| saevas petisses pulcher Amazonas,    |    |
| peltata pugnas desereret cohors      |    |
| sexu recepto ; patris et inmemor     |    |
| inter frementes Hippolyte tubas      |    |
| strictam securim languida poneret    | 35 |
| et seminudo pectore cingulum         |    |
| forti negatum solveret Herculi,      |    |
| bellumque solus conficeret decor.    |    |
| Beata, quae te mox faciet virum      | 40 |
| primisque sese iunget amoribus.      |    |

## II. (XII.)

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Age cuncta nuptiali     |    |
| redimita vere tellus    |    |
| celebra toros eriles ;  |    |
| omne nemus cum fluviis, |    |
| omne canat profundum    | 5  |
| Ligures favete campi,   |    |
| Veneti favete montes,   |    |
| subitisque se rosetis   |    |
| vestiat Alpinus apex    |    |
| et rubeant pruinae.     | 10 |
| Athesis strepat choreis |    |
| calamisque flexuosus    |    |
| leve Mincius susurret   |    |

## FESCENNINE VERSES, I-II

though he be more uncivilized than the wild Scythians and more cruel even than the beasts, but will, when he has seen near at hand thy transcendent loveliness, offer thee a ready servitude? Who will not willingly seize the chains of slavery and demand the yoke for a neck as yet free? Hadst thou o'er the heights of snowy Caucasus gone against the cruel Amazons in all thy beauty, that warrior band had fled the fight and called to mind again their proper sex; Hippolyte, amid the trumpets' din, forgetful of her sire, had weakly laid aside her drawn battle-axe, and with half-bared breast loosed the girdle all Hercules' strength availed not to loose. Thy beauty alone would have ended the war.

Blessed is she who will soon call thee husband and unite herself to thee with the bonds of first love.

## II (XII)

Come, earth, wreathed about with nuptial spring, do honour to thy master's marriage-feast. Sing, woods and rivers all, sing, deep of ocean. Give your blessing, too, Ligurian plains and yours, Venetian hills. Let Alpine heights on a sudden clothe themselves with rose-bushes and the fields of ice grow red. Let the Adige re-echo the sound of choric lays and meandering Mincius whisper gently through his

## CLAUDIAN

|  |    |
|--|----|
| et Padus electriferis<br>admoduletur alnis ;   | 15 |
| epulisque iam repleto<br>resonet Quirite Thybris<br>dominique laeta votis<br>aurea septemgeminas<br>Roma coronet arces.                | 20 |
| procul audiant Hiberi,<br>fluit unde semen aulae,<br>ubi plena laurearum<br>imperio feta domus<br>vix numerat triumphos.               | 25 |
| habet hinc patrem maritus,<br>habet hinc puella matrem<br>geminaque parte ductum<br>Caesareum flumineo<br>stemma recurrit ortu.        | 30 |
| decorent virecta Baetim,<br>Tagus intumescat auro<br>generisque procreator<br>sub vitreis Oceanus<br>luxurietur antris.                | 35 |
| Oriensque regna fratrum<br>simul Occidensque plaudat ;<br>placide iocentur urbes,<br>quaeque novo quaeque nitent<br>deficiente Phoebō. | 40 |
| Aquiloniae procellae,<br>rabidi tacete Cauri,<br>taceat sonorus Auster.<br>solus ovantem Zephyrus<br>perdominetur annum.               | 45 |

## FESCENNINE VERSES, II

reeds and Padus make answer with his amber-dripping alders. Let Tiber's banks now ring with the voices of Rome's full-fed citizens and the golden city, rejoicing in her lord's marriage, crown her seven hills with flowers.

Let Spain hear afar, Spain the cradle of the imperial race, where is a house that is mother of emperors, rich in crowns of laurel, whose triumphs can scarce be numbered. Hence came the bridegroom's sire, hence the bride's mother ; from either branch flows the blood of the Caesars, like twin streams reunited. Let rich herbage clothe Baetis' banks and Tagus swell his golden flood ; may Ocean, ancestor of the imperial race, make merry in his crystal caves. Let East and West, the two brothers' realms, join in their applause, and peace and joy fill the cities illumined by the sun at his rising and at his setting. Be still, ye storms of the north and ye mad blasts of Caurus ; sounding Auster, sink to rest. Let Zephyrus have sole rule over this year of triumph.



## CLAUDIAN

### III. (XIII.)

Solitas galea fulgere comas,  
Stilicho, molli necte corona.  
cessent litui saevumque procul  
Martem felix taeda releget.  
tractus ab aula rursus in aulam 5  
redeat sanguis. patris officiis  
iunge potenti pignora dextra.  
gener Augusti pridem fueras,  
nunc rursus eris socer Augusti.  
quae iam rabies livoris erit ? 10  
vel quis dabitur color invidiae ?  
Stilicho socer est, pater est Stilicho.

### IV. (XIV.)

Attollens thalamis Idalium iubar  
dilectus Veneri nascitur Hesperus.  
iam nuptae trepidat sollicitus pudor,  
iam produnt lacrimas flammea simplices.  
ne cessa, iuvenis, comminus adgredi, 5  
impacata licet saeviat unguibus.  
non quisquam fruitur veris odoribus  
Hyblaeos latebris nec spoliat favos,  
si fronti caveat, si timeat rubos ;  
armat spina rosas, mella tegunt apes. 10  
crescunt difficili gaudia iurgio  
accenditque magis, quae refugit, Venus.  
quod flenti tuleris, plus sapit osculum.  
dices “ o ! ” quotiens, “ hoc mihi dulcius  
quam flavos deciens vincere Sarmatas ! ” 15

## FESCENNINE VERSES, III—IV

### III (XIII)

Twine with a soft garland, Stilicho, the locks whereon a helmet is wont to shine. Let the trumpets of war cease and the propitious torch of marriage banish savage Mars afar. Let regal blood unite once more with regal blood. Perform a father's office and unite these children with thine illustrious hand. Thou didst marry an emperor's daughter, now, in turn, thy daughter shall marry an emperor. What room is here for the madness of jealousy? What excuse for envy? Stilicho is father both of bride and bridegroom.

### IV (XIV)

Hesperus, loved of Venus, rises and shines for the marriage with his Idalian<sup>1</sup> rays. Maiden shame now overcomes the anxious bride; her veil now shows traces of innocent tears. Hesitate not to be close in thine attacks, young lover, e'en though she oppose thee savagely with cruel finger-nail. None can enjoy the scents of spring nor steal the honey of Hybla from its fastnesses if he fears that thorns may scratch his face. Thorns arm the rose and bees find a defence for their honey. The refusals of coyness do but increase the joy; the desire for that which flies us is the more inflamed; sweeter is the kiss snatched through tears. How oft wilt thou say: "Better this than ten victories over the yellow-haired Sarmatae"!

<sup>1</sup> Idalian: from Idalium, a mountain in Cyprus, sacred to Venus.

## CLAUDIAN

Adspirate novam pectoribus fidem  
mansuramque facem tradite sensibus.  
tam iunctis manibus nectite vincula,  
quam frondens hedera stringitur aesculus,  
quam lento premitur palmite populus, 20  
et murmur querula blandius alite  
linguis adsiduo reddite mutuis.  
et labris animum conciliantibus  
alternum rapiat somnus anhelitum.  
amplexu caleat purpura regio 25  
et vestes Tyrio sanguine fulgidas  
alter virgineus nobilitet cruor.  
tum victor madido prosilias toro  
nocturni referens vulnera proelii.  
Ducant pervigiles carmina tibiae 30  
permissisque iocis turba licentior  
exultet tetricis libera legibus.  
passim cum ducibus ludite milites,  
passim cum pueris ludite virgines.  
haec vox aetheriis insonet axibus, 35  
haec vox per populos, per mare transeat :  
“ formosus Mariam ducit Honorius.”

## FESCENNINE VERSES, IV

Breathe a new loyalty into your breasts and let your senses kindle a flame that shall never be extinguished. May your clasped hands form a bond more close than that betwixt ivy and flowering chestnut or poplar and pliant vine. Be the frequent kisses that ye give and receive breathed more softly than those of plaintive doves, and when lips have united soul to soul let sleep still your throbbing breath. Be the purple couch warm with your princely wooing, and a new stain ennoble coverlets ruddy with Tyrian dye. Then leap victorious from the marriage-bed, scarred with the night's encounter.

All night long let the music of the flute resound and the crowd, set free from law's harsh restraints, with larger licence indulge the permitted jest. Soldiers, make merry with your leaders, girls with boys. Be this the cry that re-echoes from pole to pole, among the peoples, over the seas : " Fair Honorius weds with Maria."

EPITHALAMIUM  
DE NUPTIIS HONORII AUGUSTI

PRAEFATIO

(IX.)

Surgeret in thalamum ducto cum Pelion arcu  
nec caperet tantos hospita terra deos,  
cum socer aequoreus numerosaque turba sororum  
certarent epulis continuare dies  
praeberetque Iovi communia pocula Chiron, 5  
molliter obliqua parte refusus equi,  
Peneus gelidos mutaret nectare fontes,  
Oetaeis fluerent spumea vina iugis :  
Terpsichore facilem lascivo pollice movit  
barbiton et molles duxit in antra choros. 10  
carmina nec superis nec displicuere Tonanti,  
cum teneris nossent congrua vota modis.  
Centauri Faunique negant. quae flectere Rhoeton,  
quae rigidum poterant plectra movere Pholum ?

Septima lux aderat caelo totiensque renato 15  
viderat exactos Hesperus igne choros :  
tum Phoebus, quo saxa domat, quo pertrahit ornos,  
pectine temptavit nobiliore lyram  
venturumque sacris fidibus iam spondet Achillem,  
iam Phrygias caedes, iam Simoënta canit. 20  
frondoso strepuit felix Hymenaeus Olympo ;  
reginam resonant Othrys et Ossa Thetim.  
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# EPITHALAMIUM OF HONORIUS AND MARIA

## PREFACE

### (IX)

When Pelion reared his height to form a bridal chamber with long-drawn arches, and his hospitable land could not contain so many gods ; when Nereus, sire of the bride, and all the throng of her sisters strove to link day to day with feastings ; when Chiron, lying at ease with his horse-flanks curled under him, offered the loving-cup to Jove ; when Peneus turned his cold waters to nectar and frothing wine flowed down from Oeta's summit, Terpsichore struck her ready lyre with festive hand and led the girlish bands into the caves. The gods, the Thunderer himself, disdained not these songs, for they knew that lovers' vows ever harmonized with tender strains. Centaurs and Fauns would have none of it : what lyre could touch Rhoetus or move inhuman Pholus ?

The seventh day had flamed in heaven, seven times had Hesperus relumed his lamp and seen the dances completed ; then Phoebus touched his lyre with that nobler quill, wherewith he leads captive rocks and mountain-ashes, and sang to his sacred strings now the promised birth of Achilles, now the slaughter of the Trojans and the river Simois. The happy marriage-cry re-echoed o'er leafy Olympus, and Othrys and Ossa gave back their mistress Thetis' name.

## EPITHALAMIUM

(X.)

Hauserat insolitos promissae virginis ignes  
Augustus primoque rudis flagrauerat aestu ;  
nec novus unde calor nec quid suspiria vellent,  
noverat incipiens et adhuc ignarus amandi.  
non illi venator equus, non spicula curae, 5  
non iaculum torquere libet ; mens omnis aberrat  
in vulnus, quod fixit Amor. quam saepe medullis  
erupit gemitus ! quotiens incanduit ore  
confessus secreta rubor nomenque beatum  
iniussae scripsere manus ! iam munera nuptae 10  
praeparat et pulchros Mariae sed luce minores  
eligit ornatus, quidquid venerabilis olim  
Livia divorumque nurus gessere superbae.  
incusat spes aegra moras longique videntur  
stare dies segnemque rotam non flectere Phoebe. 15  
Scyria sic tenerum virgo flammabat Achillem  
fraudis adhuc expers bellatricesque docebat  
ducere fila manus et, mox quos horruit Ide,  
Thessalicos roseo nectebat pollice crines.  
Haec etiam queritur secum : “ quonam usque  
verendus 20

## EPITHALAMIUM

(X)

Unfelt before was the fire the Emperor Honorius had conceived for his promised bride, and he burned, all unexperienced, with passion's first fever, nor knew whence came the heat, what meant the sighs—a tyro and as yet ignorant of love. Hunting, horses, javelins—for none of these he now cares nor yet to fling the spear; Love's wound occupies all his thoughts. How often he groaned from the very heart; how often a blush, mantling to his cheeks, betrayed his secret; how often, unbidden of himself, his hand would write the loved one's name. Already he prepares gifts for his betrothed and selects to adorn her (though their beauty is less than hers) the jewels once worn by noble Livia of old and all the proud women of the imperial house. The impatient lover chafes at the delay; the long days seem as though they stood still and the moon as though she moved not her slow wheel. Thus Deidamia, girl of Scyros, e'er yet she sees through his disguise, inflamed with love the young Achilles, and taught his warrior hands to draw the slender thread and passed her rosy fingers through the locks of that Thesalian of whom all Ida was soon to stand in awe.

Thus too he communed with himself: "How long



## CLAUDIAN

cunctatur mea vota socer ? quid iungere differt,  
 quam pepigit, castasque preces implere recusat ?  
 non ego luxuriam regum moremque secutus  
 quaesivi vultum tabulis<sup>1</sup> ut nuntia formae  
 lena per innumeros iret pictura penates, 25  
 nec variis dubium thalamis lecturus<sup>2</sup> amorem  
 ardua commisi falsae conubia cerae.  
 non rapio praeceps alienae foedera taedae,  
 sed quae sponsa mihi pridem patrisque relicta  
 mandatis uno materni sanguinis ortu 30  
 communem partitur avum. fastidia supplex  
 deposui gessique procum ; de limine sacro  
 oratum misi proceres, qui proxima nobis  
 iura tenent. fateor, Stilicho, non parva poposci,  
 sed certe mereor princeps, hoc principe natus 35  
 qui sibi te generum fraterna prole revinxit,  
 cui Mariam debes. faenus mihi solve paternum,  
 redde suos aulae. mater fortasse rogari  
 mollior. o patrui germen, cui nominis heres  
 successi, sublime decus torrentis Hiberi, 40  
 stirpe soror, pietate parens, tibi creditus infans  
 inque tuo crevi gremio, partuque remoto  
 tu potius Flaccilla mihi. quid dividis ergo

<sup>1</sup> tabulis *vulg.* ; *Birt* reads thalamis with the better MSS.

<sup>2</sup> *Birt* reads laturus with *P* ; other MSS. lecturus

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<sup>1</sup> Serena, daughter of Honorius, the elder, the brother of Theodosius the Great. Theodosius adopted Serena so that by adoption Honorius and Serena were brother and sister,  
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## EPITHALAMIUM

will honoured Stilicho forbear to grant my prayers ? Why postpones he the union of those whose love he has approved ? Why should he refuse to fulfil my chaste desires ? I follow not the example of luxurious princes in seeking the beauties of a pictured countenance, whereby the pander canvass may pass from house to house to make known the charms demanded ; nor yet have I sought to choose the uncertain object of my love from this house or from that, and thus entrusted to deceptive wax the difficult selection of a bride. I sever not in violence the bonds that unite a wedded woman to her lord ; her I seek who hath long been betrothed to me, who by a father's orders was left my affianced bride and who through her mother shares with me a common grandsire. A suppliant I have laid aside my rank and acted the suitor. Princes, second only to myself in rank, have I sent from my imperial palace to present my petition. 'Tis no small thing I ask, Stilicho ; that I admit ; yet surely to me, an emperor, son of that other emperor who, by giving thee his brother's adopted daughter to wife, made thee his son-in-law,—to me thou dost owe Maria. Pay back to the son the interest due to his sire ; restore to the palace those who are its own. Mayhap her mother<sup>1</sup> will be less inexorable. Daughter of mine uncle Honorius, whence I derive my name, chief glory of the land of swift-flowing Ebro, cousin by birth, by mother's love a mother, to thy care was mine infancy entrusted, in thine arms I grew to boyhood ; save for my birth thou, rather than Flacilla, art my mother. Why dost thou separate thy two by birth cousins. Serena was probably born in 376 ; Honorius not till Sept. 9, 384.

## CLAUDIAN

pignora ? quid iuveni natam non reddis alumno ?  
 optatusne dies aderit ? dabiturne iugalis 45  
 nox umquam ? ”

Tali solatur vulnere questu.  
 risit Amor placidaeque volat trans aequora matri  
 nuntius et totas iactantior explicat alas.

Mons latus Ionium Cypri praeruptus obumbrat,  
 invius humano gressu, Phariumque cubile 50  
 Proteos et septem despectat cornua Nili.

hunc neque candentes audent vestire pruinae,  
 hunc venti pulsare timent, hunc laedere nimbi.  
 luxuriae Venerique vacat. pars acrior anni  
 exulat ; aeterni patet indulgentia veris. 55

in campum se fundit apex ; hunc aurea saepes  
 circuit et fulvo defendit prata metallo.  
 Mulciber, ut perhibent, his oscula coniugis emit  
 moenibus et tales uxorius obtulit arces.

intus rura micant, manibus quae subdita nullis 60  
 perpetuum florent, Zephyro contenta colono,  
 umbrosumque nemus, quo non admittitur ales,  
 ni probet ante suos diva sub iudice cantus :  
 quae placuit, fruitur ramis ; quae victa, recedit.  
 vivunt in Venerem frondes omnisque vicissim 65  
 felix arbor amat ; nutant ad mutua palmae  
 foedera, populeo suspirat populus ictu  
 et platani platanis alnoque adsibilat alnus.

Labuntur gemini fontes, hic dulcis, amarus  
 alter, et infusis corrumpunt mella venenis, 70

## EPITHALAMIUM

children? Why not bestow a daughter born upon an adopted son? Will the longed-for day ever come; the marriage-night ever be sanctioned?"

With such complaint he assuages the wounds of love. Cupid laughed and speeding across the deep bore the news to his gentle mother, proudly spreading his wings to their full extent.

Where Cyprus looks out over the Ionian main a craggy mountain overshadows it; unapproachable by human foot it faces the isle of Pharos, the home of Proteus and the seven mouths of the Nile. The hoar frost dares not clothe its sides, nor the rude winds buffet it nor clouds obscure. It is consecrate to pleasure and to Venus. The year's less clement seasons are strangers to it, whereover ever brood the blessings of eternal spring. The mountain's height slopes down into a plain; that a golden hedge encircles, guarding its meadows with yellow metal. This demesne, men say, was the price paid by Mulciber for the kisses of his wife, these towers were the gift of a loving husband. Fair is the enclosed country, ever bright with flowers though touched with no labouring hand, for Zephyr is husbandman enough therefor. Into its shady groves no bird may enter save such as has first won the goddess' approval for its song. Those which please her may flit among the branches; they must quit who cannot pass the test. The very leaves live for love and in his season every happy tree experiences love's power: palm bends down to mate with palm, poplar sighs its passion for poplar, plane whispers to plane, alder to alder.

Here spring two fountains, the one of sweet water, the other of bitter, honey is mingled with the first, poison with the second, and in these streams 'tis said

## CLAUDIAN

unde Cupidineas armari fama sagittas.  
 mille pharetrati ludunt in margine fratres,  
 ore pares, aevo similes, gens mollis Amorum.  
 hos Nymphae pariunt, illum Venus aurea solum  
 edidit. ille deos caelumque et sidera cornu 75  
 temperat et summos dignatur figere reges ;  
 hi plebem feriunt. nec cetera numina desunt :  
 hic habitat nullo constricta Licentia nodo  
 et flecti faciles Irae vinoque madentes  
 Excubiae Lacrimaeque rudes et gratus amantum 80  
 Pallor et in primis titubans Audacia furtis  
 iucundique Metus et non secura Voluptas ;  
 et lasciva volant levibus Periuria ventis.  
 quos inter petulans alta cervice Iuventas  
 excludit Senium luco. 85

Procul atria divae

permutant radios silvae obstante virescunt.  
 Lemnius haec etiam gemmis extruxit et auro  
 admiscens artem pretio trabibusque smaragdi  
 supposuit caesas hyacinthi rupe columnas.  
 beryllo paries et iaspide lubrica surgunt 90  
 limina despectusque solo calcatur achates.  
 in medio glaebis redolentibus area dives  
 praebet odoratas messes ; hic mitis amomi,  
 hic casiae matura seges, Panchaeaque turgent  
 cinnama, nec sicco frondescunt vimina costo 95  
 tardaue sudanti prorepunt balsama rivo.

Quo postquam delapsus Amor longasque peregit  
 penna vias, alacer passuque superbior intrat.  
 caesariem tunc forte Venus subnixa corusco  
 fingebat solio. dextra laevaue sorores 100  
 stabant Idaliae : largos haec nectaris imbres

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Graces.

## EPITHALAMIUM

that Cupid dips his arrows. A thousand brother Loves with quivers play all around upon the banks, a tender company like to Cupid himself in face and of equal age. The nymphs are their mothers ; Cupid is the only child of golden Venus. He with his bow subdues the stars and the gods and heaven, and disdains not to wound mighty kings ; of the others the common people is the prey. Other deities, too, are here : Licence bound by no fetters, easily moved Anger, Wakes dripping with wine, inexperienced Tears, Pallor that lovers ever prize, Boldness trembling at his first thefts, happy Fears, unstable Pleasure, and lovers' Oaths, the sport of every lightest breeze. Amid them all wanton Youth with haughty neck shuts out Age from the grove.

Afar shines and glitters the goddess' many-coloured palace, green gleaming by reason of the encircling grove. Vulcan built this too of precious stones and gold, wedding their costliness to art. Columns cut from rock of hyacinth support emerald beams ; the walls are of beryl, the high-built thresholds of polished jasper, the floor of agate trodden as dirt beneath the foot. In the midst is a courtyard rich with fragrant turf that yields a harvest of perfume ; there grows sweet spikenard and ripe cassia, Panchaeian cinnamon-flowers and sprays of oozy balm, while balsam creeps forth slowly in an exuding stream.

Hither Love glided down, winging his way o'er the long journey. Joyfully and with prouder gait than e'er his wont he enters. Venus was seated on her glittering throne, tiring her hair. On her right hand and on her left stood the Idalian sisters.<sup>1</sup> Of these one pours a rich stream of nectar over Venus'

## CLAUDIAN

inrigat, haec morsu numerosi dentis eburno  
 multifidum discrimen arat ; sed tertia retro  
 dat varios nexus et iusto dividit orbes  
 ordine, neglectam partem studiosa relinquens : 105  
 plus error decuit. speculi nec vultus egebat  
 iudicio ; similis tecto monstratur in omni  
 et capitur<sup>1</sup> quocumque videt. dum singula cernit,  
 seque probat, nati venientis conspicit umbram  
 ambrosioque sinu puerum complexa ferocem 110  
 “ quid tantum gavisus ? ” ait ; “ quae proelia sudas  
 improbe ? quis iacuit telis ? iterumne Tonantem  
 inter Sidonias cogis mugire iuencas ?  
 an Titana domas ? an pastoralia Lunam  
 rursus in antra vocas ? durum magnumque videris  
 debellasse deum.” 116

Suspensus in oscula matris

ille refert : “ Laetare, parens ; inmane tropaeum  
 rettulimus, nostrum iam sensit Honorius arcum.  
 scis Mariam patremque ducem, qui cuspide Gallos  
 Italiamque fovet, nec te praeclara Serenae 120  
 fama latet. propera ; regalibus adnue votis :  
 iunge toros.”

Gremio natum Cytherea removit

et crines festina ligat peplumque fluentem  
 adlevat et blando spirantem numine ceston  
 cingitur, impulsos pluviis quo mitigat amnes, 125  
 quo mare, quo ventos irataque fulmina solvit.  
 ut stetit ad litus, parvos adfatur alumnos :  
 “ Heus ! quis erit, pueri, vitreas qui lapsus in undas  
 huc rapidum Tritona vocet, quo vecta per altum

<sup>1</sup> *Birt, following the MSS., rapitur ; capitur was suggested by Conington, comparing Virg. Aen. viii. 311.*

## EPITHALAMIUM

head, another parts her hair with a fine ivory comb. A third, standing behind the goddess, braids her tresses and orders her ringlets in due array, yet carefully leaving a part untended ; such negligence becomes her more. Nor did her face lack the mirror's verdict ; her image is reflected over all the palace and she is charmed wheresoever she looks. While she surveys each detail and approves her beauty she notes the shadow of her son as he approaches and catches the fierce boy to her fragrant bosom. " Whence comes thy joy ? " she asks ; " cruel child, what battles hast thou fought ? What victim has thine arrow pierced ? Hast thou once more compelled the Thunderer to low among the heifers of Sidon ? Hast thou overcome Apollo, or again summoned Diana to a shepherd's care ? Methinks thou hast triumphed over some fierce and potent god."

Hanging upon his mother's kisses he answered : " Mother, be thou glad ; a great victory is ours. Now has Honorius felt our arrows. Thou knowest Maria and her sire, the general whose spear protects Gaul and Italy ; the fame of noble Serena is not hidden from thee. Haste thee, assent to their princely prayers and seal this royal union."

Cytherea freed her from her son's embrace, hastily bound up her hair, gathered up her flowing dress and girt herself about with the divine girdle whose all-compelling charm can stay the rain-swollen torrent and appease the sea, the winds and angry thunderbolts. Soon as she stood on the shore she thus addressed her small foster-children. " Come, children, which of you will plunge beneath the glassy wave and summon me hither fleet Triton to bear me



## CLAUDIAN

deferar ? haud umquam tanto mihi venerit usu. 130  
sacri, quos petimus, thalami. pernicios omnes  
quaerite, seu concha Libycum circumsonat aequor,  
Aegaeas seu frangit aquas. quicumque repertum  
duxerit, aurata donabitur ille pharetra."

Dixerat et sparsa diversi plebe feruntur 135  
exploratores. pelagi sub fluctibus ibat  
Carpathiis Triton obluctantemque petebat  
Cymothoën. timet illa ferum seseque sequenti  
subripit et duris elabitur uda lacertis.  
"heus," inquit speculatus Amor, "non vestra sub imis  
furta tegi potuere vadis. accingere nostram 141  
vecturus dominam : pretium non vile laboris  
Cymothoën facilem, quae nunc detrectat, habebis.  
hac mercede veni."

Prorupit gurgite torvus

semifer ; undosi verrebant brachia crines ; 145  
hispida tendebant bifido vestigia cornu,  
qua pistrix commissa viro. ter pectora movit ;  
iam quarto Paphias tractu sulcabat harenas.  
umbratura deam retro sinuatur in arcum  
belua ; tum vivo squalentia murice terga 150  
purpureis mollita toris <sup>1</sup> : hoc navigat antro <sup>2</sup>  
fulta Venus ; niveae delibant aequora plantae.  
prosequitur volucer late comitatus Amorum  
tranquillumque choris quatitur mare. sarta per  
omnem

Neptuni dispersa domum. Cadmeia ludit 155  
Leucothoë, frenatque rosis delphina Palaemon ;  
alternas violis Nereus interserit algas ;

<sup>1</sup> toris *A*, followed by *Birt* ; but rosis *VP* is attractive.

<sup>2</sup> antro *P*<sup>1</sup> ; vulg. ostro.

## EPITHALAMIUM

quickly o'er the deep? Never will he have come to do us better service. Sacred is the marriage that I seek. Make all speed in your search; may be the Libyan sea rings to his conch, may be he cleaves the Aegean main. Whoso shall find and bring him hither shall have a golden quiver as a reward."

She spake and, dividing into various bands, the scouts set out. Triton was swimming beneath the waves of the Carpathian sea, pursuing reluctant Cymothoë. She feared her rough lover and eluded his pursuit, her wet form gliding through the embraces of his strong arms. One of the Loves espied him and cried, "Stay! the deeps cannot hide your amours. Make ready to carry our mistress; as a reward for thy services (and 'tis no meagre one) thou shalt have Cymothoë, a complaisant mistress shall she be though she flout thee now. Come and win thy recompense."

The dread monster uprose from the abyss; his billowing hair swept his shoulders; hoofs of cloven horn grown round with bristles sprang from where his fishy tail joined his man's body. He swam three strokes and at the fourth stranded upon the shore of Cyprus. To shade the goddess the monster arched back his tail; then his back, rough with living purple, was bedded with scarlet coverlets; resting in such a retreat does Venus voyage, her snowy feet just dipping in the sea. A great company of winged Loves fly after her, troubling the calm surface of Ocean. Neptune's palace is all adorned with flowers. Leucothoë, daughter of Cadmus, sports on the water, and Palaemon drives his dolphin with a bridle of roses. Nereus sets violets here

## CLAUDIAN

canitiem Glaucus ligat immortalibus herbis.  
 nec non et variis vectae Nereides ibant  
 audito rumore feris (hanc pisce voluto 160  
 sublevat Oceani monstrum Tartesia tigris ;  
 hanc timor Aegaei rupturus fronte carinas  
 trux aries ; haec caeruleae suspensa leaenae  
 innatat ; haec viridem trahitur complexa iuvencom)  
 certatimque novis onerant conubia donis. 165  
 cingula Cymothoë, rarum Galatea monile  
 et gravibus Psamathe baxis diadema ferebat  
 intextum, Rubro quas legerat ipsa profundo.  
 mergit se subito vellitque corallia Doto :  
 vimen erat dum stagna subit ; processerat undis : 170  
 gemma fuit.

Nudae Venerem cinxere catervae  
 plaudentesque simul tali cum voce sequuntur :  
 “ hos Mariae cultus, haec munera nostra precamur  
 reginae regina feras. dic talia numquam  
 promeruisse Thetim nec cum soror Amphitrite 175  
 nostro nupta Iovi. devotum sentiat aequor,  
 agnoscat famulum virgo Stilichonia pontum.  
 victrices nos saepe rates classemque paternam  
 veximus, attritis cum tenderet ultor Achivis.”

Iam Ligurum terris spumantia pectora Triton 180  
 adpulerat lassosque fretis extenderat orbis.  
 continuo sublime volans ad moenia Gallis  
 condita, lanigeri suis ostentantia pellem,  
 pervenit. adventu Veneris pulsata recedunt  
 nubila, clarescunt puris Aquilonibus Alpes. 185

<sup>1</sup> i.e. Neptune.

<sup>2</sup> Milan ; cf. Isid. *Orig.* xv. 1 *vocatum Mediolanum ab eo, quod ibi sus in medio lanea perhibetur inventa* ; Sidon. *Apol.* vii. 17 *et quae lanigero de sue nomen habent.*

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and there among the seaweed and Glaucus wreathes his grey hair with deathless flowers. Hearing the tale the Nereids, too, came mounted on various beasts: one (maiden above but fish below) rides the dread sea-tiger of Tartessus; another is carried by that fierce ram, the terror of the Aegean, who shatters ships with his forehead; a third bestrides the neck of a sea-lion; another is borne along by the sea-calf to which she clings. They vie with one another in bringing gifts to the newly-wedded pair. Cymothoë presents a girdle, Galatea a precious necklace, Psamathe a diadem heavily encrusted with pearls gathered by herself from the depths of the Red Sea. Doto suddenly dives to gather coral, a plant so long as it is beneath the water, a jewel once it is brought forth from the waves.

The nude crowd of Nereids throng around Venus, following her and singing praises after this manner: "We beg thee, Venus, our queen, to bear these our gifts, these adornments, to queen Maria. Tell her that never did Thetis receive their like nor even our sister Amphitrite when she espoused our Jupiter.<sup>1</sup> Let the daughter of Stilicho hereby realize the devotion of the sea and know that Ocean is her slave. 'Tis we who bore up her father's fleet, the hope of his victorious land, what time he set out to avenge the ruined Greeks."

And now Triton's foam-flecked breast had touched the Ligurian shore and his wearied coils were extended over the surface of the water. Straightway Venus flew high in the air to the city founded by the Gauls, the city that shows as its device the fleece-covered pelt of a sow.<sup>2</sup> At the coming of the goddess the routed clouds retire; bright shine the Alps be-

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laetitiae causas ignorat dicere miles  
 laetaturque tamen ; Mavortia signa rubescunt  
 floribus et subitis animantur frondibus hastae.  
 illa suum dictis adfatur talibus agmen :

“ Gradivum, nostri comites, arcete parumper, 190  
 ut soli vacet aula mihi. procul igneus horror  
 thoracum, gladiosque tegat vagina minaces.  
 stent bellatrices aquilae saevique dracones.  
 fas sit castra meis hodie succumbere signis :  
 tibia pro lituis et pro clangore tubarum 195  
 molle lyrae festumque canant. epulentur ad ipsas  
 excubias ; mediis spirent crateres in armis.  
 laxet terribiles maestas regia fastus  
 et sociam plebem non indignata potestas  
 confundat turbae proceres. solvantur habenis 200  
 gaudia nec leges pudeat ridere severas.

“ Tu festas, Hymenaeae, faces, tu, Gratia, flores  
 elige, tu geminas, Concordia, necte coronas.  
 vos, pennata cohors, quocumque vocaverit usus,  
 divisa properate manu, neu marceat ulla 205  
 segnities : alii funalibus ordine ductis  
 plurima venturae suspendite lumina nocti ;  
 hi nostra nitidos postes obducere myrto  
 contendant ; pars nectareis adspargite tecta  
 fontibus et flamma lucos adolete Sabaeos ; 210  
 pars infecta croco velamina lutea Serum  
 pandite Sidoniasque solo prosternite vestes.  
 ast alii thalamum docto componite textu ;  
 stamine gemmato picturatisque columnis

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neath the clear North wind. The soldier rejoices though he cannot tell why. The standards of war burgeon with red flowers and the spears on a sudden sprout with living leaves. Then Venus thus addresses her attendant throng. "Comrades mine, keep away for a while the god of war that the palace may be mine and mine alone. Banish afar the terror of the flashing breastplate; let its scabbard sheath the threatening sword. Advance not the standards of war, the eagles and savage dragons. This day the camp shall yield to my standards; the flute shall sound instead of the bugle, the soft strains of the happy lyre take the place of the trumpets' blare. Let the soldiers feast even when on guard and the beakers foam in the midst of arms. Let regal majesty lay by its awful pride and power, disdaining not to associate with the people, make one the nobles with the crowd. Let joy be unrestrained and sober Law herself be not ashamed to laugh.

"Hymen, choose thou the festal torches, and ye Graces gather flowers for the feast. Thou, Concord, weave two garlands. You, winged band, divide and hasten whithersoever you can be of use: let none be slothful or lazy. You others hang numberless lamps in order from their brackets against the coming of night. Let these haste to entwine the gleaming door-posts with my sacred myrtle. Do you sprinkle the palace with drops of nectar and kindle a whole grove of Sabaeen incense. Let others unfold yellow-dyed silks from China and spread tapestries of Sidon on the ground. Do you employ all your arts in decorating the marriage-bed. Woven with jewels and upborne on carved columns be its canopy, such

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aedificetur apex, qualem non Lydia dives 215  
 erexit Pelopi nec quem struxere Lyaeo  
 Indorum spoliis et opaco palmite Bacchae.  
 illic exuvias omnes cumulate parentum :  
 quidquid avus senior Mauro vel Saxone victis,  
 quidquid ab innumeris socio Stilichone tremendus 220  
 quaesivit genitor bellis, quodcumque Gelonus  
 Armeniusve dedit ; quantum crinita sagittis  
 attulit extremo Meroë circumflua Nilo ;  
 misit Achaemenio quidquid de Tigride Medus,  
 cum supplex emeret Romanam Parthia pacem. 225  
 nobilibus gazis opibusque cubilia surgant  
 barbaricis ; omnes thalamo conferte triumphos."

Sic ait et sponsae petit improvisa penates.  
 illa autem securi tori taedasque parari  
 nescia divinae fruitur sermone parentis 230  
 maternosque bibit mores exemplaue discit  
 prisca pudicitiae Latios nec volvere libros  
 desinit aut Graios, ipsa genetrice magistra,  
 Maeonius quaecumque senex aut Thracius Orpheus  
 aut Mytilenaeo modulatur pectine Sappho 235  
 (sic Triviam Latona monet ; sic mitis in antro  
 Mnemosyne docili tradit praecepta Thaliae) :  
 cum procul augeri nitor et iucundior aër  
 attonitam lustrare domum fundique comarum  
 gratus odor. mox vera fides numenque refulsit. 240  
 cunctatur stupefacta Venus ; nunc ora puellae,

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as rich Lydia ne'er built for Pelops nor yet the Bacchae for Lyaeus, decked as his was with the spoils of Ind and the mantling vine. Heap up there all the gathered wealth of the family, all the spoil that Honorius the elder, our emperor's grandsire, won from Moor and Saxon, all that his dread father with Stilicho at his side gained from numberless wars, all that the Geloni and Armenians have contributed or Meroë added—Meroë encircled by furthestmost Nile whose people decorate their hair with arrows; whatever the Medes sent from the banks of Persian Tigris when suppliant Parthia bought peace of Rome. Let the lofty couch be adorned with the barbaric splendour of kings' treasuries; be all the wealth of all our triumphs gathered in that marriage-chamber."

So spake she and all unannounced sought the bride's home. But Maria, with no thoughts of wedlock nor knowing that the torches were being got ready, was listening with rapt attention to the discourse of her saintly mother, drinking in that mother's nature and learning to follow the example of old-world chastity; nor does she cease under that mother's guidance to unroll the writers of Rome and Greece, all that old Homer sang, or Thracian Orpheus, or that Sappho set to music with Lesbian quill; (even so Latona taught Diana; so gentle Mnemosyne in her cave gave instruction to meek Thalia)—when the sky from afar grows more bright, a sweeter air breathes through the astonished palace and there is spread the happy fragrance of scented locks. Soon came the proof; in all her beauty the goddess bursts upon them. Yet Venus stands amazed, admiring now the daughter's



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nunc flavam niveo miratur vertice matrem.  
 haec modo crescenti, plenae par altera lunae :  
 adsurgit ceu forte minor sub matre virenti  
 laurus et ingentes ramos olimque futuras 245  
 promittit iam parva comas ; vel flore sub uno  
 ceu geminae Paestana rosae per iugera regnant :  
 haec largo matura die saturataque vernis  
 roribus indulget spatio ; latet altera nodo  
 nec teneris audet foliis admittere soles. 250

Adstitit et blande Mariam Cytherea salutat :  
 " salve sidereae proles augusta Serenae,  
 magnorum suboles regum parituraque reges.  
 te propter Paphias sedes Cyprumque reliqui,  
 te propter libuit tantos explere labores 255  
 et tantum transnare maris, ne vilior ultra  
 privatos paterere lares neu tempore longo  
 dilatos iuvenis nutriret Honorius ignes.  
 accipe fortunam generis, diadema resume,  
 quod tribuas natis, et in haec penetralia rursus, 260  
 unde parens progressa, redi. fac nulla subesse  
 vincula cognatae : quamvis aliena fuisses  
 principibus, regnum poteras hoc ore mereri.  
 quae propior sceptris facies ? qui dignior aula 264  
 vultus erit ? non labra rosae, non colla pruinae,  
 non crines aequant violae, non lumina flammae.  
 quam iuncti leviter sese discrimine confert  
 umbra supercilii ! miscet quam iusta pudorem  
 temperies nimio nec sanguine candor abundat !

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<sup>1</sup> The *viola* was probably a pansy or wallflower, Gk.  
 λευκίδιον.

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loveliness, now the snowy neck and golden hair of the mother. The one is like unto the crescent moon, the other to the full. So grows a young laurel beneath the shadow of its parent tree and, small as it now is, gives promise of great branches and thick foliage to come. Or as 'twere two roses of Paestum on one stalk; the one day's fulness has brought to maturity; steeped in the dews of spring it spreads abroad its petals; the other yet nestles in its bud nor dares receive the sun's warmth within its tender heart.

Venus stood and addressed Maria with these gentle words: "All hail! revered daughter of divine Serena, scion of great kings and destined to be the mother of kings. For thy sake have I left my home in Paphos' isle and Cyprus; for thy sake was I pleased to face so many labours and cross so many seas lest thou shouldst continue to live a private life little befitting thy true worth and lest young Honorius should still feed in his heart the flame of unrequited love. Take the rank thy birth demands, resume the crown to bequeath it to thy children and re-enter the palace whence thy mother sprang. E'en though no ties of blood united thee to the royal house, though thou wert in no way related thereto, yet would thy beauty render thee worthy of a kingdom. What face could rather win a sceptre? What countenance better adorn a palace? Redder than roses thy lips, whiter than the hoar-frost thy neck, cowslips<sup>1</sup> are not more yellow than thine hair, fire not more bright than thine eyes. With how fine an interspace do the delicate eyebrows meet upon thy forehead! How just the blend that makes thy blush, thy fairness not o'ermantled with too much

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Aurorae vincis digitos umerosque Dianae ; 270  
 ipsam iam superas matrem. si Bacchus amator  
 dotali potuit caelum signare corona,  
 cur nullis virgo redimitur pulchrior astris ?  
 iam tibi molitur stellantia sarta Bootes  
 inque decus Mariae iam sidera parturit aether. 275  
 i, digno nectenda viro tantique per orbem  
 consors imperii ! iam te venerabitur Hister ;  
 nomen adorabunt populi ; iam Rhenus et Albis  
 serviet ; in medios ibis regina Sygambros.  
 quid numerem gentes Atlanteosque recessus 280  
 Oceani ? toto pariter donabere mundo."

Dixit et ornatus, dederant quos nuper ovantes  
 Nereides, collo membrisque micantibus aptat.  
 ipsa caput distinguit acu, substringit amictus ;  
 flammea virgineis accommodat ipsa capillis. 285  
 ante fores iam pompa sonat, pilentaque sacra  
 praeradiant ductura nurum. calet obuius ire  
 iam princeps tardumque cupit discedere solem :  
 nobilis haud aliter sonipes, quem primus amoris  
 sollicitavit odor, tumidus quatiensque decoras 290  
 curvata cervice iubas Pharsalia rura  
 pervolat et notos hinnitu flagitat amnes  
 naribus accensis ; mulcet fecunda magistros  
 spes gregis et pulchro gaudent armenta marito.

Candidus interea positus exercitus armis 295  
 exultat socerum circa ; nec signifer ullus

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<sup>1</sup> Venus acts as *pronuba*. The parting of the hair with the spear was a relic of marriage by capture (*cf.* Catullus *lxi.*).

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red ! Pinker thy fingers than Aurora's, firmer thy shoulders than Diana's ; even thy mother dost thou surpass. If Bacchus, Ariadne's lover, could transform his mistress' garland into a constellation how comes it that a more beauteous maid has no crown of stars ? Even now Boötes is weaving for thee a starry crown, even now heaven brings new stars to birth to do thee honour. Go, mate with one who is worthy of thee and share with him an empire co-extensive with the world. Ister now shall do thee homage ; all nations shall adore thy name. Now Rhine and Elbe shall be thy slaves ; thou shalt be queen among the Sygambri. Why should I number the peoples and the Atlantic's distant shores ? The whole world alike shall be thy dowry."

She spake and fitted to Maria's neck and shining limbs the rich gear which the happy Nereids had just given her. She parted her hair with the spear's point, girded up her dress, and with her own hands set the veil over the maiden's hair.<sup>1</sup> The procession is halted singing at the door ; brightly gleams the holy chariot in which the new bride is to fare. The prince burns to run and meet her and longs for the sun's tardy setting. Even so the noble steed when first the smell that stirs his passions smites upon him proudly shakes his thick, disordered mane and courses over Pharsalia's plains. His nostrils are aflame and with a neighing he greets the streams that saw his birth. His masters smile at the hope of their stud's increase, and the mares take pleasure in their handsome mate.

Meanwhile the army has laid aside its swords : the soldiers are dressed in white and throng around Stilicho, the bride's father. No standard-bearer nor

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nec miles pluviae flores dispergere ritu  
cessat purpureoque ducem perfundere nimbo.  
haec quoque velati lauro myrtoque caneant :

“ Dive parens, seu te complectitur axis Olympi,  
seu premis Elysias animarum praemia valles,      301  
en promissa tibi Stilicho iam vota peregit ;  
iam gratae rediere vices ; cunabula pensat ;  
acceptum reddit thalamum natoque reponit,  
quod dederat genitor. numquam te, sancte, pigebit  
iudicii nec te pietas suprema fefellit.      306  
dignus cui leges, dignus cui pignora tanti  
principis et rerum commendarentur habenae.  
dicere possemus, quae proelia gesta sub Haemo  
quaeque cruentarint fumantem Strymona pugnae,  
quam notus clipeo, quanta vi fulminet hostem,      311  
ni prohiberet Hymen. quae tempestiva relatu,  
nunc canimus. quis consilio, quis iuris et aequi  
nosse modum melior ? quod semper dissilit, in te  
convenit, ingenio robur, prudentia forti.      315  
fronte quis aequali ? quem sic Romana decerent  
culmina ? sufficerent tantis quae pectora curis ?  
stes licet in populo, clamet quicumque videbit :  
‘ hic est, hic Stilicho ! ’ sic se testatur et offert  
celsa potestatis species, non voce feroci,      320  
non alto simulata gradu, non improba gestu.  
adfectant alii quidquid fingique laborant,  
hoc donat natura tibi. pudor emicat una

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common soldier fails to scatter flowers like rain and to drench their leader in a mist of purple blossoms. Crowned with laurel and myrtle they sing: "Blessed father, whether the vault of heaven is thy home, or thou walkest in Elysium, the mansion of the blest, behold Stilicho hath now fulfilled the promises he made thee. A happy interchange has now been made: he compensates thee for his upbringing, and renders marriage in return for marriage, giving back to a son what thou, that son's father, gave to him. Never needst thou repent of thy choice; a dying father's love misled thee not. Worthy is he to be thine heir, worthy to be entrusted with the child of so powerful a prince and to hold the reins of government. Now could I tell of the battles fought beneath the slopes of Mount Haemus, the contests wherefrom Strymon reeked red with blood; I could sing the fame of his arms and how, like a thunderbolt, he falls upon his foes, but the marriage-god says me nay. Our song must be such as now befits the singing. Who can surpass Stilicho in counsel? who in knowledge of law and equity? In thee are two opposèd qualities reconciled, wisdom and strength, prudence and fortitude. Was e'er so noble a brow? Whom would Rome's highest place more befit? What heart but thine is strong enough to bear so many troubles? Shouldst thou stand amid the crowd whoe'er shall see thee would exclaim, 'That is Stilicho.' It is thus that the aspect of supreme majesty brings its own witness—not with arrogant voice, or pompous walk, or haughty gesture. The graces which others affect and strive to seem to possess are thine by nature's gift. Modesty shines forth together with a noble stern-

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formosusque rigor vultusque auctura verendos  
 canities festina venit. cum sorte remota 325  
 contingat senio gravitas viresque iuventae,  
 utraque te cingit propriis insignibus aetas.  
 ornatur Fortuna viro. non ulla nocendi  
 tela nec infecti iugulis civilibus enses.  
 non odium terrore moves nec frena resolvit 330  
 gratia ; diligimus pariter pariterque timemus.  
 ipse metus te noster amat, iustissime legum  
 arbiter, egregiae pacis fidissime custos,  
 optime ductorum, fortunatissime patrum.  
 plus iam, plus domino cuncti debere fatemur, 335  
 quod gener est, invicte, tuus. vincere corona ;  
 insere te nostris contempto iure choreis.  
 sic puer Eucherius superet virtute parentem ;  
 aurea sic videat similes Thermantia taedas ;  
 sic uterus crescat Mariae ; sic natus in ostro 340  
 parvus Honoriades genibus considat avitis."

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<sup>1</sup> Eucherius (born about 388) was the son, and Thermantia the younger daughter, of Stilicho and Serena. After the death of Maria she became Honorius' second wife.

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ness, and white hairs come hastening to increase the reverence of thy face. Though dignity be the crown of age and strength, by a far different lot, of youth, yet either season decks thee with its own peculiar honours. Thou art the ornament of fortune. Never tookst thou up the sword for hurt nor ever didst steep its blade in citizens' blood. No cruelties on thy part aroused men's hatred ; favouritism never slacks the reins of justice. We love thee, yet we fear thee. Our very fear testifies to our love, O thou most righteous interpreter of Law, guardian most sure of peace with honour, greatest of our generals, most blessed among the fathers of our country. We all confess that now we owe our emperor an even firmer allegiance for that thou, hero invincible, art the father of his bride. Crown thy head with a garland, lay aside thy rank for a moment and join our dances. An thou dost this, so may thy son Eucherius<sup>1</sup> surpass the virtues of his sire ; so may the fair Thermantia,<sup>1</sup> thy daughter, live to see a marriage such as this ; so may Maria's womb grow big and a little Honorius, born in the purple, rest on his grandsire's lap."



PANEGYRICUS  
DE TERTIO CONSULATU HONORII AUGUSTI

PRAEFATIO

(VI.)

Parvos non aquilis fas est educere fetus  
ante fidem solis iudiciumque poli.  
nam pater, excusso saluit cum tegmine proles  
ovaque maternus rupit hiulca tepor,  
protinus implumes convertit ad aethera nidos 5  
et recto flammās imperat ore pati.  
consulit ardentes radios et luce magistra  
natorum vires ingeniumque probat.  
degenerem refugo torsit qui lumine visum,  
unguibus hunc saevis ira paterna ferit. 10  
exploratores oculis qui pertulit ignes  
sustinuitque acie nobiliore diem,  
nutritur volucrumque potens et fulminis heres,  
gesturus summo tela trisulca Iovi.  
me quoque Pieriis temptatum saepius antris 15  
audet magna suo mittere Roma deo.  
iam dominas aures, iam regia tecta meremur  
et chelys Augusto iudice nostra sonat.

## PANEGYRIC ON THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF THE EMPEROR HONORIUS (A.D. 396)

### PREFACE

#### (VI)

Eagles may not rear their young without the sun's permission and the goodwill of heaven. So soon as the chicks have shattered their shells and issued forth, after that the warmth of their mother's body has cracked the opening egg, the father bird makes haste to carry the unfledged nestlings aloft and bids them gaze at the sun's fires with unblinking eye. He takes counsel of those bright beams and under light's schooling makes trial of the strength and temper of his sons. The angry father strikes with pitiless talons the degenerate who turns away his glance, but he whose eye can bear the searching flame, who with bolder sight can outstare the noonday sun, is brought up a king of birds, heir to the thunderbolt, destined to carry Jove's three-forked weapon. So mighty Rome fears not to send me, oft tested e'er now in the Muses' caverns, to face the emperor, her god. Now have I won an emperor's ear, the entrance to an emperor's palace and the emperor himself as judge of my lyre's song.

## PANEGYRICUS

### (VII.)

Tertia Romulei sumant exordia fasces  
terque tuas ducat bellatrix pompa curules ;  
festior annus eat cinctusque imitata Gabinos  
dives Hydaspeis augescat purpura gemmis ;  
succedant armis trabeae, tentoria lictor 5  
ambiat et Latiae redeant ad signa secures.  
tuque o qui patrium curis aequalibus orbem  
Eoo cum fratre regis, procede secundis  
alitibus Phoebique novos ordire meatus,  
spes votumque poli, quem primo a limine vitae 10  
nutrix aula fovet, strictis quem fulgida telis  
inter laurigeros aluerunt castra triumphos.  
ardua privatos nescit Fortuna penates  
et regnum cum luce dedit. cognata potestas  
excepit Tyrio venerabile pignus in ostro 15  
lustravitque tuos aquilis victricibus ortus  
miles et in mediis cunabula praebuilt hastis.  
te nascente ferox toto Germania Rheno

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<sup>1</sup> The *cinctus Gabinus* was one of the insignia of the consulship. It consisted in girding the toga tight round the body by means of one of its *laciniae* (= loose ends). Servius (on Virg. *Aen.* vii. 612) has a story that Gabii was invaded during the performance of a sacrifice and that the participants repulsed the enemy in their *cinctus*.

## PANEGYRIC

### (VII)

Let the consular fasces of Romulus open a third year, and for the third time let the warlike procession accompany thy curule litter. More festal in array be the coming year, and let purple, folded in Gabine <sup>1</sup> guise, be proudly enriched with gems of Hydaspes ; let the cloak of peace succeed the arms of war ; let the lictor guard the consul's tent and the Latin axes return to the standards.<sup>2</sup> And do thou, Honorius, who with thy brother, lord of the East, governest with equal care a world that was once thy sire's, go thy way with favourable omens and order the sun's new course, thyself heaven's hope and desire, palace-nurtured even from life's threshold, to whom the camp, gleaming with drawn swords, gave schooling among the laurels of victory. Thy towering fortune has never known the condition of a private citizen ; when thou wast born thou wast born a king. Power which was thine by birth received thee, a precious pledge, amid the purple ; soldiers bearing victorious standards inaugurated thy birth and set thy cradle in the midst of arms. When thou wast born fierce Germany trembled along

<sup>1</sup> Claudian suggests the uniting of civil and military power in the hands of Honorius.

## CLAUDIAN

intremuit movitque suas formidine silvas  
 Caucasus et positis numen confessa pharetris 20  
 ignavas Meroë traxit de crine sagittas.  
 reptasti per scuta puer, regumque recentes  
 exuviae tibi ludus erant, primusque solebas  
 aspera complecti torvum post proelia patrem,  
 signa triumphato quotiens flexisset ab Histro 25  
 Arctoa de strage calens, et poscere partem  
 de spoliis, Scythicos arcus aut rapta Gelonis  
 cingula vel iaculum Daci vel frena Suebi.  
 ille coruscanti clipeo te saepe volentem  
 sustulit adridens et pectore pressit anhelio 30  
 intrepidum ferri galeae nec triste timentem  
 fulgur et ad summas tendentem brachia cristas.  
 tum sic laetus ait : “ rex o stellantis Olympi,  
 talis perdomito redeat mihi filius hoste,  
 Hyrcanas populatus opes aut caede superbus 35  
 Assyria, sic ense rubens, sic flamine crebro  
 turbidus et grato respersus pulvere belli,  
 armaque gavisio referat captiva parenti.”  
 Mox ubi firmasti recto vestigia gressu,  
 non tibi desidias molles nec marcida luxu 40  
 otia nec somnos genitor permisit inertes,  
 sed nova per duros instruxit membra labores  
 et cruda teneras exercuit indole vires :  
 frigora saeva pati, gravibus non cedere nimbis,  
 aestivum tolerare iubar, transnare sonoras 45  
 torrentum furias, ascensu vincere montes,

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

the Rhine's full course, Caucasus shook his forests in fear, and the people of Meroë, confessing thy divinity, laid aside their quivers and drew the useless arrows from their hair. As a child thou didst crawl among shields, fresh-won spoils of monarchs were thy playthings, and thou wert ever the first to embrace thy stern father on his return from rude battles, when that, reeking with the blood of northern savages, he came home victorious from his conquest over the tribes of the Danube. Then wouldst thou demand thy share of the spoils, a Scythian bow or a belt won from the Geloni, a Dacian spear or Suabian bridle. Often would he smile on thee and uplift thee, eager for the honour, on his shining shield, and clasp thee to his still panting bosom. Thou fearedst not his coat of mail nor the dread gleam of his helmet but stretchedst out thy hands to grasp its lofty plumes. Then in his joy thy father cried: "King of starry Olympus, may this my son return in like manner from the lands of conquered foes, rich with the spoils of Hyrcania or proud with the slaughter of the Assyrians; his sword thus red with blood, his countenance thus roughened by the constant blasts and stained with the welcome dust of heroic combat, may he bring back to his happy father the arms of his conquered foes."

Soon when thou couldst stand upright and walk with firm step thy sire forbade thee enervating sloth, luxurious ease, time-wasting slumbers. He strengthened thy young limbs with hard toils and rude was the training wherewith he exercised thy tender powers. Thou wert taught to bear winter's cruel cold, to shrink not before storm and tempest, to face the heat of summer, to swim across loud-roaring torrents, to

## CLAUDIAN

planitiem cursu, valles et concava saltu,  
 nec non in clipeo vigiles producere noctes,  
 in galea potare nives, nunc spicula cornu  
 tendere, nunc glandes Baleari spargere funda. 50  
 quoque magis nimium pugnae inflammaret amorem,  
 facta tui numerabat avi, quem litus adustae  
 horrescit Libyae ratibusque impervia Thule :  
 ille leves Mauros nec falso nomine Pictos  
 edomuit Scottumque vago mucrone secutus 55  
 fregit Hyperboreas remis audacibus undas  
 et geminis fulgens utroque sub axe tropaeis  
 Tethyos alternae refluxas calcavit harenas.  
 hos tibi virtutum stimulos, haec semina laudum,  
 haec exempla dabat. non ocius hausit Achilles 60  
 semiferi praecepta senis, seu cupidis artes  
 sive lyrae cantus medicas seu disceret herbas.

Interea turbata fides. civilia rursus  
 bella tonant dubiumque quatit discordia mundum.  
 pro crimen superum, longi pro dedecus aevi : 65  
 barbarus Hesperias exul possederat urbes  
 sceptraque deiecto dederat Romana clienti.  
 iam princeps molitur iter gentesque remotas  
 colligit Aurorae, tumidus quascumque pererrat 69  
 Euphrates, quas lustrat Halys, quas ditat Orontes ;  
 turiferos Arabes saltus, vada Caspia Medi,  
 Armenii Phasin, Parthi liquere Niphaten.

Quae tibi tum Martis rabies quantusque sequendi  
 ardor erat ? quanto flagrabant pectora voto

<sup>1</sup> Pict, to a Roman, means " painted." They were " well-named Picts " because they painted themselves with woad or other stain.

<sup>2</sup> Arbogast is the " barbarian," Eugenius (by trade a rhetorician) the " dependent." See Introduction, p. ix.

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

climb mountains, to run o'er the plain, to leap ravines and hollows, to spend sleepless nights of watching under arms, to drink melted snow from thy casque, to shoot the arrow from the bow or hurl the acorn-missiles with a Balearic sling. And the more to inflame thy heart with love of battle he would recount to thee the deeds of thy grandsire, object of dread to Libya's sun-scorched shores and Thule whither no ship can sail. He conquered the fleet Moors and the well-named<sup>1</sup> Picts; his roaming sword pursued the flying Scot; his adventurous oars broke the surface of the northern seas. Crowned with the spoils of triumphs won beneath the northern and the southern sky he trod the wave-swept strand of either Ocean. Thus did he spur thy courage, thus sow the seeds of fame; these were the examples he gave. Not more avidly did Achilles himself drink in the Centaur's precepts when he learnt of him how to wield the spear or play the lyre or discern healing plants.

Meanwhile the world forgot its loyalty: the thunder of civil war sounded afresh and discord shook the tottering earth. O ye guilty gods! O shame everlasting!—a barbarian<sup>2</sup> exile had possessed himself of the cities of Italy and had entrusted the government of Rome to some low-born dependent. But Theodosius was already afoot, rallying to his standard the distant nations of the East, the dwellers on the banks of flooding Euphrates, clear Halys, and rich Orontes. The Arabs left their spicy groves, the Medes the waters of the Caspian Sea, the Armenians the river Phasis, the Parthians the Niphates.

What lust of battle then filled thy heart, what longing to accompany thy father! What would not



## CLAUDIAN

optatas audire tubas campique cruenta 75  
 tempestate frui truncisque inmergere plantas ?  
 ut leo, quem fulvae matris spelunca tegebat  
 uberibus solitum pasci, cum crescere sensit  
 ungue pedes et terga iubis et dentibus ora,  
 iam negat imbelles epulas et rupe relictas 80  
 Gaetulo comes ire patri stabulisque minari  
 aestuat et celsi tabo sordere iuveni.  
 ille vetat rerumque tibi commendat habenas  
 et sacro meritos ornat diademate crines.  
 tantaque se rudibus pietas ostendit in annis, 85  
 sic aetas animo cessit, quererentur ut omnes  
 imperium tibi sero datum.

Victoria velox

auspiciis effecta tuis. Pugnastis uterque :  
 tu fatis genitorque manu. te propter et Alpes  
 invadi faciles cauto nec profuit hosti 90  
 munitis haesisse locis : spes inrita valli  
 concidit et scopulis patuerunt claustra revulsis.  
 te propter gelidis Aquilo de monte procellis  
 obruit adversas acies revolutaque tela  
 vertit in auctores et turbine reppulit hastas. 95  
 o nimium dilecte deo, cui fundit ab antris  
 Aeolus armatas hiemes, cui militat aether  
 et coniurati veniunt ad classica venti.  
 Alpinae rubuere nives, et Frigidus amnis  
 276

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

thine eager spirit have given to hear the beloved clarion's note and to revel in the bloody storm of battle, trampling upon the slaughtered bodies of thy foes ! Like a young lion in a cave, accustomed to look for nourishment to the teats of its tawny mother, who, so soon as he finds talons beginning to grow from out his paws and a mane sprout from his neck and teeth arm his jaws, will have none of this inglorious food but burns to leave his cavern home and accompany his Gaetolian sire, to bring death upon the herds and steep him in the gore of some tall steer. But Theodosius said thee nay, and put the reins of government into thy hands, crowning thy head with the sacred diadem it wore so meetly. And so did thy virtue show in earliest years, so did thy soul out-range thy youth that all complained that to thee empire was granted late.

Swiftly beneath thy auspices was victory achieved. Both fought for us—thou with thy happy influence, thy father with his strong right arm. Thanks to thee the Alps lay open to our armies, nor did it avail the careful foe to cling to fortified posts. Their ramparts, and the trust they put therein, fell ; the rocks were torn away and their hiding-places exposed. Thanks to thine influence the wind of the frozen North overwhelmed the enemy's line with his mountain storms, hurled back their weapons upon the throwers and with the violence of his tempest drove back their spears. Verily God is with thee, when at thy behest Æolus frees the armed tempests from his cave, when the very elements fight for thee and the allied winds come at the call of thy trumpets. The Alpine snows grew red with slaughter, the cold Frigidus, its waters turned to blood, ran hot and steaming, and would

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mutatis fumavit aquis turbaque cadentum 100  
staret, ni rapidus iuvisset flumina sanguis.

At ferus inventor scelerum traiecerat altum  
non uno mucrone latus, duplexque tepebat  
ensis, et ultrices in se converterat iras  
tandem iusta manus. iam libertate reducta, 105

quamvis emeritum peteret natura reverti  
numen et auratas astrorum panderet arces  
nutaretque oneris venturi conscius Atlas,  
distulit Augustus cupido se credere caelo,  
dum tibi pacatum praesenti traderet orbem. 110

nec mora : Bistonis alacer consurgis ab oris,  
inter barbaricas ausus transire cohortes  
impavido vultu ; linquis Rhodopeia saxa  
Orpheis animata modis ; iuga deseris Oetes  
Herculeo damnata rogo ; post Pelion intras 115

Nereis inlustre toris ; te pulcher Enipeus  
celsaque Dodone stupuit rursusque locutae  
in te Chaoniae moverunt carmina quercus.  
Illyrici legitur plaga litoris ; arva teruntur  
Dalmatiae ; Phrygii numerantur stagna Timavi. 120

gaudent Italiae sublimibus oppida muris  
adventu sacrata tuo, summissus adorat  
Eridanus blandosque iubet mitescere fluctus  
et Phaëthontes solitae deflere ruinas  
roscida frondosae revocant electra sorores. 125

Quanti tum iuvenes, quanta spreverunt pudorem  
spectandi studio matres, puerisque severi

<sup>1</sup> This is obscure. Zosimus (iv. 58. 6) and Socrates (v. 25) merely mention suicide, but from Claudian's account it looks as though, like Nero, Arbogast's courage had failed him and an attendant had had to help him to his death.

<sup>2</sup> The Fons Timavi (near Aquileia and the river Frigidus) is called Trojan from the story of the colonization of Venetia by the Trojan Antenor (Livy i. 1. 3).

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

have been choked with the heaps of corpses had not their own fast-flowing gore helped on its course.

Meanwhile Arbogast, the cause of this wicked war, had pierced his side deep not with a single blade: two swords<sup>1</sup> reeked with his blood, and his own hand, learning justice at last, had turned its savage fury against himself. Thus was liberty restored; but though Nature demanded the return to heaven of divine Theodosius whose work was now accomplished, though the sky threw open the golden palaces of its starry vault and Atlas staggered knowing the burden he was to bear, yet did the emperor forbear to entrust him to expectant Olympus until he could in thy presence hand over to thee a world at peace. Straightway didst thou, Honorius, leave the coasts of Thrace, and, braving the dangers of the journey, pass without a tremor through the hordes of barbarians. Thou leavest the rocks of Rhodope to which Orpheus' lyre gave life; thou quittest the heights of Oeta, scene of Hercules' ill-omened funeral pyre; next thou climbest Pelion, famed for the marriage of Peleus and Thetis. Fair Enipeus and lofty Dodona look upon thee in amaze, and the oaks of Chaonia, finding tongues once more, utter oracles in thine honour. Thou skirtest the extreme coasts of Illyria and, passing over Dalmatia's fields, dost cross in turn the nine sources of Trojan Timavus.<sup>2</sup> The high-walled cities of Italy rejoice in the blessings of thy presence. Eridanus bows his head and worships, bidding his waves flow gently to the sea; and Phaëthon's leafy sisters, that ever weep their brother's death, check the flow of their dewy amber.

How many youths, how many matrons set modesty aside in eagerness to behold thee! Austere grey-

## CLAUDIAN

certavere senes, cum tu genitoris amico  
 exceptus gremio mediam veherere per urbem  
 velaretque pios communis laurea currus ! 130  
 quis non Luciferum roseo cum Sole videri  
 credidit aut iunctum Bromio radiare Tonantem ?  
 floret cristatis exercitus undique turmis,  
 quisque sua te voce canens. praestringit aena  
 lux oculos, nudique seges Mavortia ferri 135  
 ingeminat splendore diem. pars nobilis arcu,  
 pars longe iaculis, pars comminus horrida contis ;  
 hi volucres tollunt aquilas, hi picta draconum  
 colla levant, multusque tumet per nubila serpens  
 iratus stimulante Noto vivitque receptis 140  
 flatibus et vario mentitur sibila tractu.

Ut ventum ad sedes, cunctos discedere tectis  
 dux iubet et generum compellat talibus ultro :  
 “ bellipotens Stilicho, cuius mihi robur in armis,  
 pace probata fides : quid enim per proelia gessi 145  
 te sine ? quem merui te non sudante triumphum ?  
 Odrysium pariter Getico foedavimus Hebrum  
 sanguine, Sarmaticas pariter prostravimus alas  
 Riphaeaeque simul fessos porreximus artus  
 in glacie stantemque rota sulcavimus Histrum : 150  
 ergo age, me quoniam caelestis regia poscit,  
 tu curis succede meis, tu pignora solus  
 nostra fove : geminos dextra tu protege fratres.  
 280

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

beards struggle with boys for places whence to see thee in the tender embraces of thy sire, borne through the midst of Rome on a triumphal chariot decked but with the shade of a simple laurel branch. Who did not then think that he beheld the morning-star together with the rosy sun, or the Thunderer shine in concert with Bacchus? On every side stretches the host of plumed warriors, each hymning thy praises in his own tongue; the brightness of bronze dazzles the eye and the martial glint of a forest of unsheathed swords redoubles the light of day. Some are decked with bows, others bristle with far-flung javelins or pikes for fighting at close quarters. These raise standards adorned with flying eagles, or with embroidered dragons or writhing serpents, that in their thousands seem to be roused to angry life by the breath of the wind which, as it blows them this way and that, causes them to rustle with a sound like the hiss of a living snake.

When they reached the palace the emperor bade all depart and thus unbidden addressed his son-in-law: "Victorious Stilicho, of whose courage in war, of whose loyalty in peace I have made proof—what warlike feat have I performed without thine aid? What triumph have I won that thou helpedst me not in the winning? Together we caused Thracian Hebrus to run red with Getic blood, together overthrew the squadrons of the Sarmatae, together rested our weary limbs on the snows of Mount Rhiphaeus and seared the frozen Danube with our chariot's wheel—come, therefore, since heaven's halls claim me, do thou take up my task; be thou sole guardian of my children, let thy hand protect my two sons. I adjure thee by

## CLAUDIAN

per consanguineos thalamos noctemque beatam,  
 per taedas, quas ipsa tuo regina levavit 155  
 coniugio sociaque nurum produxit ab aula,  
 indue mente patrem, crescentes dilige fetus  
 ut ducis, ut soceri. Iamiam securus ad astra  
 te custode ferar ; rupta si mole Typhoeus  
 prosiliat, vinclis Tityos si membra resolvat, 160  
 si furor Enceladi proiecta mugiat Aetna,  
 opposito Stilichone cadent."

Nec plura locutus,

sicut erat, liquido signavit tramite nubes  
 ingrediturque globum Lunae limenque relinquit  
 Arcados et Veneris clementes advolat auras. 165  
 hinc Phoebi permensus iter flammamque nocentem  
 Gradivi placidumque Iovem ; stetit arce suprema,  
 argenti qua zona riget Saturnia tractu.  
 machina laxatur caeli rutilaeque patescunt  
 sponte fores. Arctoa parat convexa Bootes, 170  
 australes reserat portas succinctus Orion  
 invitantque novum sidus, pendentque vicissim  
 quas partes velit ipse sequi, quibus esse sodalis  
 dignetur stellis aut qua regione morari.  
 o decus aetherium, terrarum gloria quondam, 175  
 te tuus Oceanus natali gurgite lassum  
 excipit et notis Hispania proluit undis.  
 fortunate parens, primos cum detegis ortus,  
 adspicis Arcadium ; cum te proclivior urges,  
 occiduum visus remoratur Honorius ignem ; 180  
 et quocumque vagos flectas sub cardine cursus,

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

that marriage that makes thee kin with me, by the night that saw its consummation, by the torch which at thy wedding-feast the queen carried in her own hand when she led thy bride-elect from out the imperial palace, take on thee a father's spirit, guard the years of their childhood. Was not their sire thy master and thy wife's father? Now, now I shall mount untroubled to the stars for thou wilt watch over them. Even should Typhoeus rend away the rocks and leap forth, should Tityus free his captive limbs, should Enceladus, hurling Etna from him, roar in rage—each and all will fall before Stilicho's attack."

He spake no more but still in human form clove a furrow of light through the clouds; he passes to Luna's globe, leaves Mercury's threshold and hastens to the gentle airs of Venus. Hence he traverses Phoebus' path, Mars' baleful fires and Jupiter's quiet quarters, and stands upon the very crown of the sky, cold Saturn's frozen zone. Heaven's fabric opens, unbidden the shining doors swing back. Boötes prepares a place in the vault of the northern sky, sword-girt Orion unbars the portals of the south; they offer welcome to the new star, uncertain each in turn to what region he will betake himself, what constellation he will grace with his presence, or in what quarter he will elect to shine alone. O glory of heaven as once thou wert of earth, the ocean that laves the shores of the land of thy birth receives thee wearied with thy nightly course, Spain bathes thee in thy natal waves. Happy father, when first thou risest above the horizon thou lookest upon Arcadius, when thou dippest to thy setting the sight of Honorius delays thy westering fires. Through whichever hemisphere thou takest thy wandering



## CLAUDIAN

natorum per regna venis, qui mente serena  
 maturoque regunt iunctas moderamine gentes,  
 saecula qui rursus formant meliore metallo.  
 luget Avarities Stygiis innexa catenis 185  
 cumque suo demens expellitur Ambitus auro.  
 non dominantur opes nec corrumpentia sensus  
 dona valent : emitur sola virtute potestas.

Unanimi fratres, quorum mare terraque fatis  
 debetur, quodcumque manus evasit avitas, 190  
 quod superest patri : vobis iam Mulciber arma  
 praeparat et Sricula Cyclops incude laborat,  
 Brontes innumeris exasperat aegida signis,  
 altum fulminea crispare in casside conum  
 festinat Steropes, nectit thoraca Pyragmon 195  
 ignifluisque gemit Lipare fumosa cavernis.  
 vobis Ionia virides Neptunus in alga  
 nutrit equos, qui summa freti per caerula possint  
 ferre viam segetemque levi percurrere motu,  
 nesciat ut spumas nec proterat ungula culmos. 200  
 iam video Babylona rapi Parthumque coactum  
 non ficta trepidare fuga, iam Bactra teneri  
 legibus et famulis Gangen pallescere ripis  
 gemmatosque humilem dispergere Persida cultus.  
 ite per extremum Tanaim pigrosque Triones, 205  
 ite per ardentem Libyam, superate vapores  
 solis et arcanos Nili deprendite fontes,  
 Herculeum finem, Bacchi transcurrite metas :  
 vestri iuris erit, quidquid complectitur axis.  
 vobis Rubra dabunt pretiosas aequora conchas, 210  
 Indus ebur, ramos Panchaia, vellera Seres.

## THE THIRD CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

journey, thou passest over the domains of sons who with tranquil mind and ripe control rule over allied peoples, who once again fashion the ages from a nobler ore. Avarice is left to weep in Stygian chains, mad Ambition and his gold banished afar. Wealth does not hold sway ; sense-corrupting gifts are of no avail ; virtue alone can purchase power.

Brothers twain, with the heart of one, brothers to whose rule fate has entrusted sea and land, if there is aught that has escaped your grandsire's conquering hand, aught your father has left unsubdued, even now Vulcan prepares the arms for their subjection and Cyclops labours on the Sicilian anvil. Brontes carves countless figures on the shield, Steropes hastes to bend the lofty peak of the flashing helmet, Pyragmon knits the coat of mail, smoky Lipare roars throughout its fire-belching caves. 'Tis for you that Neptune pastures in the sea-weed meadows of the Ionian main green sea-horses who can fly o'er the surface of the blue waters with so light a step that their hoofs are unflecked with foam, and course o'er fields of corn so delicately that the ears do not bend beneath their weight. E'en now I see the sack of Babylon and the Parthian driven to flight that is not feigned, Bactria subjected to the Law, the fearful pallor of the Ganges' servile banks, the humbled Persian throwing off his gem-encrusted robes. Mount to Tanais' source, explore the frozen North, traverse sun-scorched Libya, o'ercome the fires of Titan and surprise Nile's hidden spring ; pass the Pillars of Hercules, the bourne, too, whence Bacchus returned ; whatever heaven enfolds shall own your dominion. To you the Red Sea shall give precious shells, India her ivory, Panchaia perfumes, and China silk.

PANEGYRICUS  
DE QUARTO CONSULATU HONORII AUGUSTI  
(VIII.)

Auspiciis iterum sese regalibus annus  
induit et nota fruitur iactantior aula,  
limina nec passi circum privata morari  
exultant reduces Augusto consule fasces.  
cernis ut armorum proceres legumque potentes      5  
patricios sumant<sup>1</sup> habitus? et more Gabino  
discolor incedit legio positisque parumper  
bellorum signis sequitur vexilla Quirini.  
lictori cedunt aquilae ridetque togatus  
miles et in mediis effulget curia castris.      10  
ipsa Palatino circumvallata senatu  
iam trabeam Bellona gerit parmamque removit  
et galeam sacras umeris vectura curules.  
nec te laurigeras pudeat, Gradive, secures  
pacata gestare manu Latiaque micantem      15  
loricam mutare toga, dum ferreus haeret  
currus et Eridani ludunt per prata iugales.

Haud indigna coli nec nuper cognita Marti  
Ulpia progenies et quae diademata mundo  
sparsit Hibera domus. nec tantam vilior unda      20

<sup>1</sup> sumant *B*; *Birt* reads sumunt, following the other MSS.

<sup>1</sup> As marking a festival; see note on vii. 3.

PANEGYRIC ON THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP  
OF THE EMPEROR HONORIUS (A.D. 398)

(VIII)

Once more the year opens under royal auspices and enjoys in fuller pride its famous prince ; not brooking to linger around private thresholds the returning fasces rejoice in Caesar's consulship Seest thou how the armed chiefs and mighty judges don the raiment of senators ? and the soldiers step forth in garb of peaceful hue worn Gabine <sup>1</sup> wise, and laying aside for a season the standards of war follow the banner of Quirinus. The eagles give way to the lictors, the smiling soldier wears the toga of peace and the senate-house casts its brilliance in the midst of the camp. Bellona herself, surrounded by a noble band of senators, puts on the consul's gown and lays by her shield and helmet in order to harness the sacred curule chair to her shoulders. Think it no shame, Gradivus, to bear the laurel-crowned axes in a hand of peace and to exchange thy shining breastplate for the Latin toga while thine iron chariot remains unused and thy steeds disport them in the pastures of Eridanus.

Not unworthy of reverence nor but newly acquainted with war is the family of Trajan and that Spanish house which has showered diadems upon the world. No common stream was held worthy

## CLAUDIAN

|   |    |
|---|----|
| promeruit gentis seriem : cunabula fovit<br>Oceanus ; terrae dominos pelagique futuros<br>inmenso decuit rerum de principe nasci.<br>hinc processit avus, cui post Arctoa frementi<br>classica Massylas adnexuit Africa laurus,                 | 25 |
| ille, Caledoniis posuit qui castra pruinis,<br>qui medios Libyae sub casside pertulit aestus,<br>terribilis Mauro debellatorque Britanni<br>litoris ac pariter Boreae vastator et Austri.<br>quid rigor aeternus, caeli quid frigora prosunt    | 30 |
| ignotumque fretum ? maduerunt Saxone fuso<br>Orcades ; incaluit Pictorum sanguine Thyle ;<br>Scottorum cumulos flevit glacialis Hiverne.<br>quid calor obsistit forti ? per vasta cucurrit<br>Aethiopum cinxitque novis Atlanta manipulis,      | 35 |
| virgineum Tritona bibit sparsosque venenis<br>Gorgoneos vidit thalamos et vile virentes<br>Hesperidum risit, quos ditat fabula, ramos.<br>arx incensa Iubae, rabies Maurusia ferro<br>cessit et antiqui penetralia diruta Bocchi.               | 40 |
| Sed laudes genitor longe transgressus avitas<br>subdidit Oceanum sceptris et margine caeli<br>clausit opes, quantum distant a Tigride Gades,<br>inter se Tanais quantum Nilusque relinquunt :<br>haec tamen innumeris per se quaesita tropaeis, | 45 |

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian is thinking of such passages in Homer as *e.g.* *Il.* xiv. 245-246 :

ῥέεθρα  
Ὠκεανοῦ, ὃς περ γένεσις πάντεσσι τέτυκται,

or perhaps Vergil's *Oceanumque patrem rerum* (*Virg. Georg.* iv. 382).

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

to water the homeland of so illustrious a race ; Ocean laved their cradle, for it befitted the future lords of earth and sea to have their origin in the great father<sup>1</sup> of all things. Hence came Theodosius, grandfather of Honorius, for whom, exultant after his northern victories, Africa twined fresh laurels won from the Massylae. 'Twas he who pitched his camp amid the snows of Caledonia,<sup>2</sup> who never doffed his helmet for all the heat of a Libyan summer, who struck terror into the Moors, brought into subjection the coasts of Britain and with equal success laid waste the north and the south. What avail against him the eternal snows, the frozen air, the uncharted sea ? The Orcades ran red with Saxon slaughter ; Thule was warm with the blood of Picts ; ice-bound Hibernia wept for the heaps of slain Scots. Could heat stay the advance of a courageous general ? No ; he overran the deserts of Ethiopia, invested Atlas with troops strange to him, drank of lake Triton where was born the virgin goddess Minerva, beheld the Gorgon's empoisoned lair, and laughed to see the common verdure of those gardens of the Hesperides which story had clothed with gold. Juba's fortress was burned down, the frenzied valour of the Moor yielded to the sword and the palace of ancient Bocchus was razed to the ground.

But thy father's fame far surpassed that of thy grandsire : he subdued Ocean to his governance and set the sky for border to his kingdom, ruling from Gades to the Tigris, and all that lies 'twixt Tanais and Nile ; yet all these lands won by countless triumphs of his own, he gained them not by gift

<sup>2</sup> *Cf.* note on xv. 216.

## CLAUDIAN

non generis dono, non ambitione potitus.  
 digna legi virtus. ultro se purpura supplex  
 obtulit et solus meruit regnare rogatus.  
 nam cum barbaries penitus commota gementem  
 inrueret Rhodopen et mixto turbine gentes 50  
 iam deserta suas in nos transfunderet Arctos,  
 Danuvii totae vomerent cum proelia ripae,  
 cum Geticis ingens premeretur Mysia plaustis  
 flavaque Bistonios operirent agmina campos,  
 omnibus adflictis et vel labentibus ictu 55  
 vel prope casuris : unus tot funera contra  
 restitit extinxitque faces agrisque colonos  
 reddidit et leti rapuit de faucibus urbes.  
 nulla relictæ foret Romani nominis umbra,  
 ni pater ille tuus iamiam ruitura subisset 60  
 pondera turbatamque ratem certaue levasset  
 naufragium commune manu : velut ordine rupto  
 cum procul insanae traherent Phaëthonta quadrigae  
 saeviretque dies terramque et stagna propinqui  
 haurirent radii, solito cum murmure torvis 65  
 sol occurrit equis ; qui postquam rursus eriles  
 agnovere sonos, rediit meliore magistro  
 machina concentusque poli, currusque recepit  
 imperium flammaeque modum.

Sic traditus ille

servatusque Oriens. at non pars altera rerum 70  
 tradita : bis possessa manu, bis parta periclis.  
 per varium gemini scelus erupere tyranni  
 tractibus occiduis : hunc saeva Britannia fudit ;

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

of birth or from lust of power. It was his own merit secured his election. Unsought the purple begged his acceptance of itself ; he alone when asked to rule was worthy to do so. For when unrest at home drove barbarian hordes over unhappy Rhodope and the now deserted north had poured its tribes in wild confusion across our borders, when all the banks of Danube poured forth battles and broad Mysia rang beneath the chariots of the Getae, when flaxen-haired hordes covered the plains of Thrace and amid this universal ruin all was either prostrate or tottering to its fall, one man alone withstood the tide of disaster, quenched the flames, restored to the husbandmen their fields and snatched the cities from the very jaws of destruction. No shadow of Rome's name had survived had not thy sire borne up the tottering mass, succoured the storm-tossed bark and with sure hand averted universal shipwreck. As when the maddened coursers broke from their path and carried Phaëthon far astray, when day's heat grew fierce and the sun's rays, brought near to earth, dried up both land and sea, Phoebus checked his fierce horses with his wonted voice ; for they knew once more their master's tones, and with a happier guide heaven's harmonious order was restored ; for now the chariot again accepted government and its fires control.

Thus was the East entrusted to him and thus was its salvation assured ; but the other half of the world was not so entrusted : twice was the West gained by valour, twice won by dangers. In those lands of the sunset by manifold crime there arose to power tyrants twain : wild Britain produced one (Maximus), the other (Eugenius) was chosen



## CLAUDIAN

hunc sibi Germanus famulum delegerat exul :  
 ausus uterque nefas, domini respersus uterque      75  
 insontis iugulo. novitas audere priori  
 suadebat cautumque dabant exempla sequentem.  
 hic nova moliri praeceps, hic quaerere tuta  
 providus ; hic fuis, collectis viribus ille ;  
 hic vagus excurrens, hic intra claustra reductus.      80  
 dissimiles, sed morte pares. evadere neutri  
 dedecus aut mixtis licuit procumbere telis.  
 amissa specie, raptis insignibus ambo  
 in vultus rediere suos manibusque revinctis  
 oblatis gladiis summittunt colla paratis      85  
 et vitam veniamque rogant. pro damna pudoris !  
 qui modo tam densas nutu movere cohortes,  
 in quos iam dubius sese libraverat orbis,  
 non hostes victore cadunt, sed iudice sontes ;  
 damnat voce reos, petiit quos Marte tyrannos.      90  
 amborum periere duces : hic sponte carina  
 decidit in fluctus, illum suus abstulit ensis ;  
 hunc Alpes, hunc pontus habet. solacia caesis  
 fratribus haec ultor tribuit : necis auctor uterque  
 labitur ; Augustas par victima mitigat umbras.      95  
 has dedit inferias tumulis, iuvenumque duorum  
 purpureos merito placavit sanguine manes.  
 Illi iustitiam confirmavere triumphis,

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<sup>1</sup> Maximus was responsible for the murder of the Emperor Gratian, Eugenius for that of Valentinian II. See Introduction, p. viii.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

as a tool by a Frankish outlaw (Arbogast). Both dared monstrous guilt; both stained their hands with an innocent emperor's<sup>1</sup> blood. Sudden elevation inspired Maximus with audacity, his failure taught his successor caution. Maximus was quick to arm rebellion, Eugenius careful to attempt only what was safe. The one o'erran the country, spreading his forces in all directions, the other kept his troops together and himself secure behind a rampart. Different were they, but in their deaths alike. To neither was it granted to escape an ignominious end and to fall in the thick of the fight. Gone was their glory, their weapons were reft from them and they reduced to their former state; their arms were bound behind their backs and they stretched forth their necks to the sword's imminent stroke, begging for pardon and for life. What a fall did pride there suffer! They who but lately had moved such countless cohorts with but a nod, into whose palm a wavering world had hung ready to drop, fall not as warriors at a victor's hand but as malefactors before a judge; he sentences with his voice as criminals those whom he assailed in war as tyrants. With both perished their lieutenants: Andragathius hurled himself from his ship into the waves, Arbogast took his life with his own sword; the Alps mark the tomb of the one, the sea of the other. This solace at least the avenger afforded to those murdered brothers that both the authors of their deaths themselves were slain; two victims went to appease those royal ghosts. Such was Theodosius' oblation at their tomb and with the blood of the guilty he appeased the shades of the two young emperors.

Those triumphs stablished Justice on her throne

## CLAUDIAN

praesentes docuere deos. hinc saecula discant  
 indomitum nihil esse pio tutumve nocenti : 100  
 nuntius ipse sui longas incognitus egit  
 praevento rumore vias, inopinus utrumque  
 perculit et clausos montes, ut plana, reliquit.  
 extruite inmanes scopulos, attollite turres,  
 cingite vos fluviis, vastas opponite silvas, 105  
 Garganum Alpinis Appenninumque nivalem  
 permixtis sociate iugis et rupibus Haemum  
 addite Caucasiis, involvite Pelion Ossae :  
 non dabitis murum sceleri. qui vindicet, ibit :  
 omnia subsident meliori pervia causae. 110

Nec tamen oblitus civem cedentibus atrox  
 partibus infremuit ; non insultare iacenti  
 malebat : mitis precibus, pietatis abundans,  
 poenae parcus erat ; paci non intulit iram ;  
 post acies odiis idem qui terminus armis. 115  
 profuit hoc vincente capi, multosque subactos  
 prospera <sup>1</sup> laturae commendavere catenae.  
 magnarum largitor opum, largitor honorum  
 pronus et in melius gaudens convertere fata.  
 hinc amor, hinc validum devoto milite robur. 120  
 hinc natis mansura fides.

Hoc nobilis ortu  
 nasceris aequaeva cum maiestate creatus  
 nullaue privatae passus contagia sortis.  
 omnibus acceptis ultro te regia solum  
 protulit et patrio felix adolescis in ostro, 125

<sup>1</sup> *Birt, with the mss., aspera ; I return to the prospera of the edit. princeps.*

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* by winning first the pity and then the favour of Theodosius.

<sup>2</sup> "Only," because Arcadius was born *before* Theodosius became emperor.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

and taught that heaven gives help. From them let the ages learn that righteousness need fear no foe and guilt expect no safety. Himself his own messenger, outstripping the rumour of his approach, Theodosius traversed those long journeys undetected by his enemies. Suddenly he fell on both, passing over entrenched mountains as if they were a plain. Build up monstrous rocks, raise towers, surround yourselves with rivers, set limitless forests to protect you, put Garganus and the snowy Apennines upon the summits of the Alps that all form one vast mountain barrier, plant Haemus on the crags of Caucasus, roll Pelion on Ossa, yet will ye not gain security for guilt. The avenger will come ; for the better cause all things shall sink to make a path.

Yet never did Theodosius forget that he and the vanquished were fellow-citizens, nor was his anger implacable against those who yielded. Not his the choice to exult over the fallen. His ears were open to prayers, his clemency unbounded, his vengeance restrained. His anger did not survive the war to darken the days of peace ; the day that set an end to the combat set an end to his wrath. Capture by such a victor was a gain ; and many a conquered foe did their chains commend to future fortune.<sup>1</sup> As liberal of money as of honours he was ever bent to redress the injuries of fate. Hence the love, the fortitude, the devotion of his troops ; hence their abiding loyalty to his sons.

Child of so noble a sire, thy kingly state was coëval with thy birth nor ever knewest thou the soilure of a private lot. To thee all things came unsought ; thee only<sup>2</sup> did a palace rear ; thy happy growth was in ancestral purple, and thy limbs, never

## CLAUDIAN

membraque vestitu numquam violata profano  
 in sacros cecidere sinus. Hispania patrem  
 auriferis eduxit aquis, te gaudet alumno  
 Bosphorus. Hesperio de limine surgit origo,  
 sed nutrix Aurora tibi ; pro pignore tanto 130  
 certatur, geminus civem te vindicat axis.  
 Herculis et Bromii sustentat gloria Thebas,  
 haesit Apollineo Delos Latonia partu  
 Cretaque se iactat tenero reptata Tonanti ;  
 sed melior Delo, Dictaeis clarior oris 135  
 quae dedit hoc numen regio ; non litora nostro  
 sufficerent angusta deo. nec inhospita Cynthi  
 saxa tuos artus duro laesere cubili :  
 adclinis genetrix auro, circumflua gemmis  
 in Tyrios enixa toros ; ululata verendis 140  
 aula puerperiis. quae tunc documenta futuri ?  
 quae voces avium ? quanti per inane volatus ?  
 qui vatum discursus erat ? tibi corniger Hammon  
 et dudum taciti rupere silentia Delphi,  
 te Persae cecinere magi, te sensit Etruscus 145  
 augur et inspectis Babylonius horruit astris,  
 Chaldaei stupuere senes Cumanaque rursus  
 intonuit rupes, rabidae delubra Sibyllae.  
 nec te progenitum Cybeleius aere sonoro  
 lustravit Corybas : exercitus undique fulgens 150  
 adstitit ; ambitur signis augustior infans,  
 sentit adorantes galeas, redditque ferocem  
 vagitum lituus.

Vitam tibi contulit idem

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

outraged by garb profane, were laid upon a hallowed lap. Spain with its rivers of gold gave birth to thy sire ; Bosphorus boasts thee among its children. The West is the cradle of thy race but the East was thine own nurse ; rivals are they for so dear a pledge, either hemisphere claims thee as its citizen. The fame of Hercules and Bacchus has immortalized Thebes ; when Latona gave birth to Apollo in Delos that island stayed its errant course ; it is Crete's boast that over its fields the infant Thunderer crawled. But the land that brought divine Honorius to birth is a greater than Delos, a more famous than Crete. Such narrow shores would not suffice our god. Nor did the bleak rocks of Cynthus hurt thy body with their rough bed ; on couch of gold, clothed in jewelled raiment, thy mother gave birth to thee amid Tyrian purples ; a palace rang with joy at that royal deliverance. What presages were there not then of future prosperity ? what songs of birds, what flights of good omen in the heavens ? What was the hurrying to and fro of seers ? Hornèd Ammon and Delphi so long dumb at length broke their silence ; Persian magi prophesied thy triumphs ; Tuscan augurs felt thine influence ; seers of Babylon beheld the stars and trembled ; amazement seized the Chaldaean priests ; the rock of Cumae, shrine of raging Sibyl, thundered once again. Cybele's corybants surrounded not thy cradle with the clatter of their brazen shields ; a shining host stood by thee on every side. Standards of war hedged in the royal babe who marked the bowed helmets of the worshipping soldiery while the trumpet's blare answered his warlike cries.

The day that gave thee birth gave thee a kingdom ;

## CLAUDIAN

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| imperiumque dies ; inter cunabula consul<br>proveheris, signas posito modo nomine fastos<br>donaturque tibi, qui te produxerat, annus.  | 155 |
| ipsa Quirinali parvum te cinxit amictu<br>mater et ad primas docuit reptare curules.<br>uberibus sanctis immortalique dearum<br>crescis adoratus gremio : tibi saepe Diana  | 160 |
| Maenaliis arcus venatricesque pharetras<br>suspendit, puerile decus ; tu saepe Minervae<br>lusisti clipeo fulvamque impune pererrans<br>aegida tractasti blandos interritus angues ;<br>saepe tuas etiam tum gaudente marito            | 165 |
| velavit regina comas festinaque voti<br>praesumptum diadema dedit, tum lenibus ulnis<br>sustulit et magno porrexit ad oscula patri.<br>nec dilatus honos : mutatur principe Caesar ;<br>protinus aequaris fratri.                       | 170 |
| Non certius umquam  |     |
| hortati superi, nullis praesentior aether<br>adfuit ominibus. tenebris involverat atra<br>lumen hiems densosque Notus collegerat imbres.<br>sed mox, cum solita miles te voce levasset,<br>nubila dissolvit Phoebus pariterque dabantur | 175 |
| sceptra tibi mundoque dies : caligine liber<br>Bosphorus adversam patitur Calchedona cerni.<br>nec tantum vicina nitent, sed tota repulsis<br>nubibus exuitur Thrace, Pangaea renident<br>insuetosque palus radios Maeotia vibrat.      | 180 |

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<sup>1</sup> Honorius, who was born Sept. 9, 384, was made consul for 386.

<sup>2</sup> Arcadius was made Augustus Jan. 16 (? 19), 383 : Honorius not till Nov. 20, 393. Both succeeded to the throne Jan. 17, 395.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

in thy cradle thou wast raised to the consulship.<sup>1</sup> With the name so recently bestowed upon thee thou dowerest the fasti and the year wherein thou wert born is consecrated to thee. Thy mother herself wrapped thy small form in the consular robe and directed thy first steps to the curule chair. Nourished at a goddess' breasts, honoured with the embraces of immortal arms thou grewest to maturity. Oft to grace thy boyish form Diana hung upon thy shoulders her Maenalian bow and huntress' quiver; oft thou didst sport with Minerva's shield and, crawling unharmed over her glittering aegis, didst caress its friendly serpents with fearless hand. Often even in those early days thy mother beneath thy sire's happy gaze crowned thy tender locks and, anticipating the answer to her prayers, gave thee the diadem that was to be thine hereafter; then raising thee in her gentle arms she held thee up to receive thy mighty father's kiss. Nor was that honour long in coming; thou, then Caesar, didst become emperor and wert straightway made equal with thy brother.<sup>2</sup>

Never was the encouragement of the gods more sure, never did heaven attend with more favouring omens. Black tempest had shrouded the light in darkness and the south wind gathered thick rain-clouds, when of a sudden, so soon as the soldiers had borne thee aloft with customary shout, Phoebus scattered the clouds and at the same moment was given to thee the sceptre, to the world light. Bosphorus, freed from clouds, permits a sight of Chalcedon on the farther shore; nor is it only the vicinity of Byzantium that is bathed in brightness; the clouds are driven back and all Thrace is cleared; Pangaeus shows afar and lake Maeotis makes quiver the rays he



## CLAUDIAN

nec Boreas nimbos aut sol ardentior egit :  
 imperii lux illa fuit ; praesagus obibat  
 cuncta nitor risitque tuo natura sereno.  
 visa etiam medio populis mirantibus audax  
 stella die, dubitanda nihil nec crine retuso 185  
 languida, sed quantus numeratur nocte Bootes,  
 emicuitque plagis alieni temporis hospes  
 ignis et agnosci potuit, cum luna lateret :  
 sive parens Augusta fuit, seu forte reluxit  
 divi sidus avi, seu te properantibus astris 190  
 cernere sol patiens caelum commune remisit.  
 adparet quid signa ferant. ventura potestas  
 claruit Ascanio, subita cum luce comarum  
 innocuus flagraret apex Phrygioque volutus  
 vertice fatalis redimiret tempora candor. 195  
 at tua caelestes inlustrant omina flammae.  
 talis ab Idaeis primaevus Iuppiter antris  
 possessi stetit arce poli famulosque recepit  
 natura tradente deos ; lanugine nondum  
 vernabant vultus nec adhuc per colla fluebant 200  
 moturae convexa comae ; tum scindere nubes  
 discebat fulmenque rudi torquere lacerto.  
 Laetior augurio genitor natisque superbus  
 iam paribus duplici fultus consorte redibat  
 splendebatque pio complexus pignora curru. 205  
 haud aliter summo gemini cum patre Lacones,  
 progenies Ledaëa, sedent : in utroque relucet  
 frater, utroque soror ; simili chlamys effluit auro ;

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<sup>1</sup> Virgil mentions the portent (*Aen.* ii. 682).

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

rarely sees. 'Tis not Boreas nor yet Phoebus' warmer breath that has put the mists to flight. That light was an emperor's star. A prophetic radiance was over all things, and with thy brightness Nature laughed. Even at midday did a wondering people gaze upon a bold star ('twas clear to behold)—no dulled nor stunted beams but bright as Boötes' nightly lamp. At a strange hour its brilliance lit up the sky and its fires could be clearly seen though the moon lay hid. May be it was the Queen mother's star or the return of thy grandsire's now become a god, or may be the generous sun agreed to share the heavens with all the stars that hasted to behold thee. The meaning of those signs is now unmistakable. Clear was the prophecy of Ascanius' coming power when an aureole crowned his locks, yet harmed them not, and when the fires of fate encircled his head and played about his temples.<sup>1</sup> Thy future the very fires of heaven foretell. So the young Jove, issuing from the caves of Ida, stood upon the summit of the conquered sky and received the homage of the gods whom Nature handed to his charge. The bloom of youth had not yet clothed his cheeks nor flowed there o'er his neck the curls whose stirrings were to shake the world. He was yet learning how to cleave the clouds and hurl the thunderbolt with unpractised hand.

Gladdened by that augury and proud of his now equal sons the sire returned, upstayed on the two princes and lovingly embracing his children in glittering car. Even so the Spartan twins, the sons of Leda, sit with highest Jove; in each his brother is mirrored, in each their sister; round each alike flows a golden dress, and star-crowned are the

## CLAUDIAN

stellati pariter crines. iuvat ipse Tonantem  
error et ambiguae placet ignorantia matri ; 210  
Eurotas proprios discernere nescit alumnos.

Ut domus excepit reduces, ibi talia tecum  
pro rerum stabili fertur dicione locutus :

“ Si tibi Parthorum solium Fortuna dedisset,  
care puer, terrisque procul venerandus Eois 215  
barbarus Arsacio consurgeret ore tiaras :  
sufficeret sublime genus luxuque fluentem  
deside nobilitas posset te sola tueri.  
altera Romanae longe rectoribus aulae  
condicio. virtute decet, non sanguine niti. 220  
maior et utilior fato coniuncta potenti,  
vile latens virtus. quid enim? submersa tenebris  
proderit obscuro veluti sine remige puppis  
vel lyra quae reticet vel qui non tenditur arcus.

“ Hanc tamen haud quisquam, qui non agnoverit  
ante 225  
semet et incertos animi placaverit aestus,  
inveniet ; longis illuc ambagibus itur.  
disce orbi, quod quisque sibi. cum conderet artus  
nostros, aetheriis miscens terrena, Prometheus,  
sinceram patri mentem furatus Olympo 230  
continuit claustris indignantemque revinxit  
et, cum non aliter possent mortalia fingi,  
adiunxit geminas. illae cum corpore lapsae  
intereunt, haec sola manet bustoque superstes  
evolat. hanc alta capitis fundavit in arce 235  
mandatricem operum prospecturamque labori ;

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian here follows the Platonic psychology which divides the soul into τὸ ἐπιθυμητικόν, τὸ θυμοειδές, the two (“geminas”) baser elements, and τὸ λογιστικόν (the “haec” of l. 234).

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

locks of both. The Thunderer rejoices in his very uncertainty, and to their hesitating mother her ignorance brings delight; Eurotas cannot make distinction between his own nurslings.

When all had returned to the palace, Theodosius, anxious for the world's just governance, is said to have addressed thee in these terms :

"Had fortune, my dear son, given thee the throne of Parthia, hadst thou been a descendant of the Arsacid house and did the tiara, adored by Eastern lands afar, tower upon thy forehead, thy long lineage would be enough, and thy birth alone would protect thee, though wantoning in idle luxury. Very different is the state of Rome's emperor. 'Tis merit, not blood, must be his support. Virtue hidden hath no value, united with power 'tis both more effective and more useful. Nay, o'erwhelmed in darkness it will no more advantage its obscure possessor than a vessel with no oars, a silent lyre, an unstrung bow.

"Yet virtue none shall find that has not first learned to know himself and stilled the uncertain waves of passion within him. Long and winding is the path that leads thereto. What each man learns in his own interests learn thou in the interests of the world. When Prometheus mixed earthly and heavenly elements and so formed human kind, he stole man's spirit pure from his own heavenly home, held it imprisoned and bound despite its outcries, and since humanity could be formed in no other way he added two more souls.<sup>1</sup> These fail and perish with the body; the first alone remains, survives the pyre and flies away. This soul he stationed in the lofty fastness of the brain to control and oversee the work and labours of the body. The other

## CLAUDIAN

illas inferius collo praeceptaque summae  
 passuras dominae digna statione locavit.  
 quippe opifex veritus confundere sacra profanis  
 distribuit partes animae sedesque removit. 240  
 iram sanguinei regio sub pectore cordis  
 protegit imbutam flammis avidamque nocendi  
 praecipitemque sui. rabie succensa tumescit,  
 contrahitur tepefacta metu. cumque omnia secum  
 duceret et requiem membris vesana negaret, 245  
 invenit pulmonis opem madidumque furenti  
 praeбuit, ut tumidae ruerent in mollia fibrae.  
 at sibi cuncta petens, nil conlatura cupido  
 in iecur et tractus imos compulsa recessit,  
 quae, velut inmanis reserat dum belua rictus, 250  
 expleri pascique nequit : nunc verbere curas  
 torquet avaritiae, stimulis nunc flagrat amorum,  
 nunc gaudet, nunc maesta dolet satiataque rursus  
 exoritur caesaque redit pollentius hydra.

“ Hos igitur potuit si quis sedare tumultus, 255  
 inconcussa dabit purae sacraria menti.  
 tu licet extremos late dominere per Indos,  
 te Medus, te mollis Arabs, te Seres adorent :  
 si metuis, si prava cupis, si ducers ira,  
 servitii patiere iugum ; tolerabis iniquas 260  
 interius leges. tunc omnia iure tenebis,  
 cum poteris rex esse tui. proclivior usus  
 in peiora datur suadetque licentia luxum  
 inlecebrisque effrena favet. tum vivere caste  
 304

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

two he set below the neck in a place befitting their functions, where it is their part to obey the commands of the directing soul. Doubtless our creator, fearing to mix the heavenly with the mortal, placed the different souls in different parts and kept their dwelling-places distinct. Near to the heart whence springs our blood there is within the breast a place where fiery anger lurks, eager to hurt and uncontrolled. This cavity swells when heated by rage and contracts when cooled by fear. Then, since anger swept everything away with it and in its fury gave the limbs no rest, Prometheus invented the lungs to aid the body and applied their humidity to the raging of anger to soothe our wrath-swollen flesh. Lust, that asks for everything and gives nought, was driven down into the liver and of necessity occupied the lowest room. Like a beast, opening its capacious jaws, lust can never be full fed nor satisfied ; it is a prey now to the cruel lash of sleepless avarice, now to the fiery goads of love ; is swayed now by joy, now by misery, and is no sooner fed than fain to be fed again, returning with more insistence than the oft-beheaded hydra.

“Can any assuage this tumult he will assure an inviolable sanctuary for a spotless soul. Thou mayest hold sway o’er farthest India, be obeyed by Mede, unwarlike Arab or Chinese, yet, if thou fearest, hast evil desires, art swayed by anger, thou wilt bear the yoke of slavery ; within thyself thou wilt be a slave to tyrannical rule. When thou canst be king over thyself then shalt thou hold rightful rule over the world. The easier way often trod leads to worse ; liberty begets licence and, when uncontrolled, leads to vice. Then is a chaste

## CLAUDIAN

asperius, cum prompta Venus ; tum durius irae 265  
 consulitur, cum poena patet. sed comprime motus  
 nec tibi quid liceat, sed quid fecisse decebit  
 occurrat, mentemque domet respectus honesti.

“ Hoc te praeterea crebro sermone monebo,  
 ut te totius medio telluris in ore 270  
 vivere cognoscas, cunctis tua gentibus esse  
 facta palam nec posse dari regalibus usquam  
 secretum vitiis ; nam lux altissima fati  
 occultum nihil esse sinit, latebrasque per omnes  
 intrat et abstrusos explorat fama recessus. 275

“ Sis pius in primis ; nam cum vincamur in omni  
 munere, sola deos aequat clementia nobis.  
 neu dubie suspectus agas neu falsus amicis  
 rumorumve avidus : qui talia curat, inanes  
 horrebit strepitus nulla non anxius hora. 280  
 non sic excubiae, non circumstantia pila  
 quam tutatur amor. non extorquebis amari ;  
 hoc alterna fides, hoc simplex gratia donat.  
 nonne vides, operum quod se pulcherrimus ipse  
 mundus amore liget, nec vi conexa per aevum 285  
 conspirent elementa sibi ? quod limite Phoebus  
 contentus medio, contentus litore pontus  
 et, qui perpetuo terras ambitque vehitque,  
 nec premat incumbens oneri nec cesserit aër ?  
 qui terret, plus ipse timet ; sors ista tyrannis 290  
 convenit ; invideant claris fortesque trucidant,  
 306

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

life harder when love is at call ; then is it a sterner task to govern anger when vengeance is to hand. Yet master thine emotions and ponder not what thou mightest do but what thou oughtest to do, and let regard for duty control thy mind.

“ Of this too I cannot warn thee too often : remember that thou livest in the sight of the whole world, to all peoples are thy deeds known ; the vices of monarchs cannot anywhere remain hid. The splendour of their lofty station allows nought to be concealed ; fame penetrates every hiding-place and discovers the inmost secrets of the heart.

“ Above all fail not in loving-kindness ; for though we be surpassed in every virtue yet mercy alone makes us equal with the gods. Let thine actions be open and give no grounds for suspicion, be loyal to thy friends nor lend an ear to rumours. He who attends to such will quake at every idle whisper and know no moment's peace. Neither watch nor guard nor yet a hedge of spears can secure thee safety ; only thy people's love can do that. Love thou canst not extort ; it is the gift of mutual faith and honest goodwill. Seest thou not how the fair frame of the very universe binds itself together by love, and how the elements, not united by violence, are for ever at harmony among themselves ? Dost thou not mark how that Phoebus is content not to outstep the limits of his path, nor the sea those of his kingdom, and how the air, which in its eternal embrace encircles and upholds the world, presses not upon us with too heavy a weight nor yet yields to the burden which itself sustains ? Whoso causes terror is himself more fearful ; such doom befits tyrants. Let them be jealous of another's fame, murder the



## CLAUDIAN

muniti gladiis vivant saeptique venenis,  
 ancipites habeant arces trepidique minentur :  
 tu civem patremque geras, tu consule cunctis,  
 non tibi, nec tua te moveant, sed publica vota. 295

“ In commune iubes si quid censesque tenendum,  
 primus iussa subi : tunc observantior aequi  
 fit populus nec ferre negat, cum viderit ipsum  
 auctorem parere sibi. componitur orbis  
 regis ad exemplum, nec sic inflectere sensus 300  
 humanos edicta valent quam vita regentis :  
 mobile mutatur semper cum principe vulgus.

“ His tamen effectis neu fastidire minores  
 neu pete praescriptos homini transcendere fines.  
 inquinat egregios adiuncta superbia mores. 305  
 non tibi tradidimus dociles servire Sabaeos,  
 Armeniae dominum non te praefecimus orae,  
 nec damus Assyriam, tenuit quam femina, gentem.  
 Romani, qui cuncta diu rexere, regendi,  
 qui nec Tarquinii fastus nec iura tulere 310  
 Caesaris. annales veterum delicta loquuntur :  
 haerebunt maculae. quis non per saecula damnat  
 Caesareae portenta domus ? quem dira Neronis  
 funera, quem rupes Caprearum taetra latebit  
 incesto possessa seni ? victura feretur 315  
 gloria Traiani, non tam quod Tigride victo  
 nostra triumphati fuerint provincia Parthi,  
 alta quod invectus fractis Capitolia Dacis,

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Tiberius.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

brave, live hedged about with swords and fenced with poisons, dwelling in a citadel that is ever exposed to danger, and threaten to conceal their fears. Do thou, my son, be at once a citizen and a father, consider not thyself but all men, nor let thine own desires stir thee but thy people's.

“ If thou make any law or establish any custom for the general good, be the first to submit thyself thereto ; then does a people show more regard for justice nor refuse submission when it has seen their author obedient to his own laws. The world shapes itself after its ruler's pattern, nor can edicts sway men's minds so much as their monarch's life ; the unstable crowd ever changes along with the prince.

“ Nor is this all : show no scorn of thine inferiors nor seek to overstep the limits established for mankind. Pride joined thereto defaces the fairest character. They are not submissive Sabaeans whom I have handed over to thy rule, nor have I made thee lord of Armenia ; I give thee not Assyria, accustomed to a woman's rule. Thou must govern Romans who have long governed the world, Romans who brooked not Tarquin's pride nor Caesar's tyranny. History still tells of our ancestors' ill deeds ; the stain will never be wiped away. So long as the world lasts the monstrous excesses of the Julian house will stand condemned. Will any not have heard of Nero's murders or how Capri's foul cliffs were owned by an aged lecher<sup>1</sup> ? The fame of Trajan will never die, not so much because, thanks to his victories on the Tigris, conquered Parthia became a Roman province, not because he brake the might of Dacia and led their chiefs in triumph up the slope of the Capitol, but because

## CLAUDIAN

quam patriae quod mitis erat. ne desine tales,  
nate, sequi.

“ Si bella canant, prius agmina duris  
exerce studiis et saevo praestruere Marti. 321  
non brumae requies, non hibernacula segnes  
enervent torpore manus. ponenda salubri  
castra loco ; praebenda vigil custodia vallo.  
disce, ubi denseri cuneos, ubi cornua tendi 325  
aequius aut iterum flecti ; quae montibus aptae,  
quae campis acies, quae fraudi commoda vallis,  
quae via difficilis. fudit si moenibus hostis,  
tum tibi murali libretur machina pulsu ;  
saxa rota ; praeceps aries protectaque portas 330  
testudo feriat ; ruat emersura iuventus  
effossi per operta soli. si longa moretur  
obsidio, tum vota cave secura remittas  
inclusumve putes ; multis damnosa fuere  
gaudia ; dispersi pereunt somnove soluti ; 335  
saepius incautae nocuit victoria turbae.  
neu tibi regificis tentoria larga redundant  
deliciis, neve imbelles ad signa ministros  
luxuries armata trahat. neu flantibus Austris  
neu pluviis cedas, neu defensura calorem 340  
aurea summoveant rapidos umbracula soles.  
inventis utere cibus. solabere partes  
aequali sudore tuas : si collis iniquus,

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<sup>1</sup> A well-known Roman method of attack by which the troops advanced to the point of attack in close formation, each man holding his shield above his head. The protection thus afforded to the assaulting band was likened to the shell of the tortoise (*testudo*).

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

he was kindly to his country. Fail not to make such as he thine example, my son.

“Should war threaten, see first that thy soldiers are exercised in the practices of war and prepare them for the rigours of service. The ease of winter months spent in winter quarters must not weaken nor unnerve their hands. Establish thy camps in healthy places and see that watchful sentries guard the ramparts. Learn how to know when to mass your troops and when it is better to extend them or face them round ; study the formations suitable for mountain warfare and those for fighting on the plain. Learn to recognize what valleys may conceal an ambush and what routes will prove difficult. If thine enemy trusts in his walls to defend him then let thy catapults hurl stones at his battlements ; fling rocks thereat and let the swinging ram and shield-protected *testudo*<sup>1</sup> shake his gates. Your troops should undermine the walls and issuing from this tunnel should rush into the town. Should a long siege delay thee, then take care thou unbend not thy purpose in security or count thine enemy thy prisoner. Many ere this have found premature triumph their undoing, scattered or asleep they have been cut to pieces ; indeed victory itself has not seldom been the ruin of careless troops. Not for thee let spacious tents o’erflow with princely delights nor luxury don arms and drag to the standards her unwarlike train. Though the storm winds blow and the rain descends yield not to them and use not cloth of gold to guard thee from the sun’s fierce rays. Eat such food as thou canst find. It will be a solace to thy soldiers that thy toil is as heavy as theirs ; be the first to mount the arduous hill and, should

## CLAUDIAN

primus ini ; silvam si caedere provocat usus, 345  
 sumpta ne pudeat quercum stravisse bipenni.  
 calcatur si pigra palus, tuus ante profundum  
 pertemptet sonipes. fluvios tu protere cursu  
 haerentes glacie, liquidos tu scinde natatu.  
 nunc eques in medias equitum te consere turmas ;  
 nunc pedes adsistas pediti. tum promptius ibunt  
 te socio, tum conspicuus gratusque geretur 351  
 sub te teste labor."

Dicturum plura parentem

voce subis : " equidem, faveant modo numina coeptis,  
 haec effecta dabo, nec me fratrique tibiue  
 dissimilem populi commissaque regna videbunt. 355  
 sed cur non potius, verbis quae disseris, usu  
 experior ? gelidas certe nunc tendis in Alpes.  
 duc tecum comitem ; figant sine nostra tyrannum  
 spicula ; pallescat nostro sine barbarus arcu.  
 Italiamne feram furiis praedonis acerbi 360  
 subiectam ? patiar Romam servire clienti ?  
 usque adeone puer ? nec me polluta potestas  
 nec pia cognati tanget vindicta cruoris ?  
 per strages equitare libet. da protinus arma.  
 cur annos obicis ? pugnae cur arguor impar ?  
 aequalis mihi Pyrrhus erat, cum Pergama solus 365  
 verteret et patri non degeneraret Achilli.  
 denique si princeps castris haerere nequibo,  
 vel miles veniam."

Delibat dulcia nati

oscula miratusque refert : " laudanda petisti ; 370  
 sed festinus amor. veniet robustior aetas ;  
 ne propera. necdum decimas emensus aristas  
 adgrederis metuenda viris : vestigia magnae  
 312

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

necessity demand the felling of a forest, be not ashamed to grasp the axe and hew down the oak. If a stagnant marsh must be crossed let thy horse be the first to test the depth of it. Boldly tread the frozen river ; swim the flood. Mounted thyself, ride amid thy squadrons of horse or again stand foot to foot with the infantry. They will advance the bolder for thy presence, and with thee to witness glorious and glad shall be the fulfilment of their task."

More would he have spoken but Honorius broke in and said: "All this will I do, so God favour my attempts. The peoples and kingdoms committed to my care shall find me not unworthy of thee nor of my brother. But why should I not experience in action what thou has taught in words? Thou goest to the wintry Alps: take me with thee. Let mine arrows pierce the tyrant's body, and the barbarians pale at my bow. Shall I allow Italy to become the prey of a ruthless bandit? Rome to serve one who is himself but a servant? Am I still such a child that neither power profaned nor just revenge for an uncle's blood shall move me? Fain would I ride through blood. Quick, give me arms. Why castest thou my youth in my teeth? Why thinkest me unequal to the combat? I am as old as was Pyrrhus when alone he o'erthrew Troy and proved himself no degenerate from his father Achilles. If I may not remain in thy camp as a prince I will come even as a soldier."

Theodosius kissed his son's sweet lips and answered him wondering: "Nought have I but praise for thy petition, but this love of glory has bloomed too early. Thy strength will increase with years; till then be patient. Though thou hast not yet completed ten summers thou wouldst hance dangers that a man

## CLAUDIAN

indolis agnosco. fertur Pellaeus, Eoum  
 qui domuit Porum, cum prospera saepe Philippi 375  
 audiret, laetos inter flevisse sodales  
 nil sibi vincendum patris virtute relinqui.  
 hos video motus. fas sit promittere patri :  
 tantus eris. nostro nec debes regna favori,  
 quae tibi iam natura dedit. sic mollibus olim 380  
 stridula ducturum pratis examina regem  
 nascentem venerantur apes et publica mellis  
 iura petunt traduntque favos ; sic pascua parvus  
 vindicat et necdum firmatis cornibus audax  
 iam regit armentum vitulus. sed proelia differ 385  
 in iuvenem patiensque meum cum fratre tuere  
 me bellante locum. vos impacatus Araxes,  
 vos celer Euphrates timeat, sit Nilus ubique  
 vester et emisso quidquid sol imbuit ortu.  
 si pateant Alpes, habeat si causa secundos 390  
 iustior eventus, aderis partesque receptas  
 suscipies, animosa tuas ut Gallia leges  
 audiat et nostros aequus modereris Hiberos.  
 tunc ego securus fati laetusque laborum  
 discedam, vobis utrumque regentibus axem. 395

“ Interea Musis animus, dum mollior, instet  
 et quae mox imitere legat ; nec desinat umquam  
 tecum Graia loqui, tecum Romana vetustas.  
 antiquos evolve duces, adsuesce futurae

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<sup>1</sup> As is well known, the ancients mistook the sex of the queen bee.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

might fear : I mark the tokens of a noble nature. It is said that Alexander, conqueror of eastern Porus, wept at the constant news of Philip's fortune, telling his companions who rejoiced thereat that his sire's valour left him nought to conquer. In thee I see like spirit. May a father be allowed this prophecy—"thou shalt be as great"! It is not to my goodwill thou owest the kingdom, for nature has already made it thine. So even from his birth bees reverence the king<sup>1</sup> who is to lead their buzzing swarms through the soft meadows, ask his public laws for the gathering of the honey and entrust to him their combs. So the spirited young heifer claims sovereignty over the grazing-grounds and, though as yet his horns are not grown strong, lords it over the herd. Nay : postpone thy campaigns till thou art a man and while I do battle patiently help thy brother to fulfil my office. Be you two the terror of untamed Araxes and of swift Euphrates ; may Nile throughout all his length belong to you and all the lands upon which the morning sun lets fall his beam. Should I force a passage over the Alps, should success crown the juster cause, thou shalt come and govern the recovered provinces, whereby fierce Gaul shall obey thy laws and my native Spain be guided by thy just rule. Then, careless of doom and rejoicing in my labours, I shall quit this mortal life, while you, my sons, rule either hemisphere.

"Meanwhile cultivate the Muses whilst thou art yet young ; read of deeds thou soon mayest rival ; never may Greece's story, never may Rome's, cease to speak with thee. Study the lives of the heroes of old to accustom thee for wars that are to be.



## CLAUDIAN

militiae, Latium retro te confer in aevum. 400  
 libertas quaesita placet ? mirabere Brutum.  
 perfidiam damnas ? Metti satiabere poenis.  
 triste rigor nimius ? Torquati despice mores.  
 mors impensa bonum ? Decios venerare ruentes.  
 vel solus quid fortis agat, te ponte soluto 405  
 oppositus Cocles, Muci te flamma docebit ;  
 quid mora perfringat, Fabius ; quid rebus in artis  
 dux gerat, ostendet Gallorum strage Camillus.  
 discitur hinc nullos meritis obsistere casus :  
 prorogat aeternam feritas tibi Punica famam, 410  
 Regule ; successus superant adversa Catonis.  
 discitur hinc quantum paupertas sobria possit :  
 pauper erat Curius, reges cum vinceret armis,  
 pauper Fabricius, Pyrrhi cum sperneret aurum ;  
 sordida dictator flexit Serranus aratra : 415  
 lustratae lictore casae fascisque salignis  
 postibus adfixi ; collectae consule messes  
 et sulcata diu trabeato rura colono."

Haec genitor praecepta dabat : velut ille carinae  
 longaevus rector, variis quem saepe procellis 420  
 exploravit hiems, ponto iam fessus et annis  
 aequoreas alni nato commendat habenas  
 et casus artesque docet : quo dextra regatur  
 sidere ; quo fluctus possit moderamine falli ;  
 quae nota nimborum ; quae fraus infida sereni ; 425

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<sup>1</sup> The story of the punishment of Mettius Fufetius, the Alban dictator, by the Roman king Tullus Hostilius for his treachery in the war against Fidenae is told by Livy (i. 28. 10) and referred to by Claudian (xv. 254). For Mucius (Scaevola) holding his arm in the flame to show Lars Porsenna how little he, a Roman, minded bodily pain see Livy ii. 12.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

Go back to the Latin age. Admirest thou a fight for liberty? Thou wilt admire Brutus. Does treachery rouse thine indignation? The punishment of Mettius<sup>1</sup> will fill thee with satisfaction. Dost thou hate undue severity? Abominate Torquatus' savagery. Is it a virtue to die for one's country? Honour the self-devotion of the Decii. Horatius Cocles, facing the foe on the broken bridge, Mucius holding his arm in the flames,<sup>2</sup> these shall show thee what, single-handed, brave men can do. Fabius will show thee what overthrow delay can cause; Camillus and his slaughter of the Gauls what in face of odds a leader can effect. From history thou mayest learn that no ill fortune can master worth; Punic savagery extends thy fame, Regulus, to eternity; the failure of Cato outdoes success. From history thou mayest learn the power of frugal poverty; Curius was a poor man when he conquered kings in battle; Fabricius was poor when he spurned the gold of Pyrrhus; Serranus, for all he was dictator, drove the muddy plough. In those days the lictors kept watch at a cottage door, the fasces were hung upon a gateway of wood; consuls helped to gather in the harvest, and for long years the fields were ploughed by husbandmen who wore the consular robe."

Such were the precepts of the sire. Even so an aged helmsman oft proved by winter's various storms, aweary now of the sea and his weight of years, commends to his son the rudder of his bark, tells him of dangers and devices—by what art the helmsman's hand is guided; what steerage may elude the wave; what is a sign of storms; what the treachery of a cloudless sky, the promise of the

## CLAUDIAN

quid sol occiduus prodat; quo saucia vento  
decolor iratos attollat Cynthia vultus.  
adspice nunc, quacumque micas, seu circulus Austri,  
magne parens, gelidi seu te meruere Triones,  
adspice : completur votum. iam natus adaequat 430  
te meritis et, quod magis est optabile, vincit  
subnixus Stilichone tuo, quem fratribus ipse  
discedens clipeum defensoremque dedisti.  
pro nobis nihil ille pati nullumque recusat  
discrimen temptare sui, non dura viarum, 435  
non incerta maris, Libyae squalentis harenas  
audebit superare pedes madidaque cadente  
Pleiade Gaetulas intrabit navita Syrtes.

Hunc tamen in primis populos lenire feroces  
et Rhenum pacare iubes. volat ille citatis 440  
vectus equis nullaque latus stipante caterva,  
aspera nubiferas qua Raetia porrigit Alpes,  
pergit et hostiles (tanta est fiducia) ripas  
incomitatus adit. totum properare per amnem  
attonitos reges humili cervice videres. 445  
ante ducem nostrum flavam sparsere Sygambri  
caesariem pavidoque orantes murmure Franci  
procubuere solo : iuratur Honorius absens  
imploratque tuum supplex Alamannia nomen.  
Bastarnae venere truces, venit accola silvae 450  
Bructerus Hercyniae latisque paludibus exit  
Cimber et ingentes Albim liquere Cherusci.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

setting sun ; what storm-wind frets the Moon so that discoloured she uplifts an angry face. Behold now, great father, in whatsoever part of heaven thou shinest, be it the southern arch or the cold constellation of the Plough that has won the honour of thy presence ; see, thy prayer has been answered ; thy son now equals thee in merit, nay, a consummation still more to be desired, he surpasseth thee, thanks to the support of thy dear Stilicho whom thou thyself at thy death didst leave to guard and defend the brothers twain. For us there is nought that Stilicho is not ready to suffer, no danger to himself he is not willing to face, neither hardships of the land nor hazards of the sea. His courage will carry him on foot across the deserts of Libya, at the setting of the rainy Pleiads his ship will penetrate the Gaetulian Syrtes.

To him, however, thy first command is to calm fierce nations and bring peace to the Rhine. On wind-swift steed, no escort clinging to his side, he crosses the cloud-capped summits of the Raetian Alps, and, so great is his trust in himself, approaches the river unattended. Then mightest thou have seen from source to mouth come hastening up Rhine's princes, bending their heads in fearful submission. Before our general the Sygambri abased their flaxen locks and the Franks cast themselves upon the ground and sued with trembling voice for pardon. Germany swears allegiance to the absent Honorius and addresses her suppliant prayers to him. Fierce Bastarnae were there and the Bructeri who dwell in the Hercynian forest. The Cimbrians left their broad marsh-lands, the tall Cherusci came from the river Elbe. Stilicho listens

## CLAUDIAN

accipit ille preces varias tardeque rogatus  
 adnuit et magno pacem pro munere donat.  
 nobilitant veteres Germanica foedera Drusus, 455  
 Marte sed ancipiti, sed multis cladibus empta—  
 quis victum meminit sola formidine Rhenum ?  
 quod longis alii bellis potuere mereri,  
 hoc tibi dat Stilichonis iter.

### Post otia Galli

limitis hortaris Graias fulcire ruinas. 460  
 Ionium tegitur velis ventique laborant  
 tot curvare sinus servaturasque Corinthum  
 prosequitur facili Neptunus gurgite classes,  
 et puer, Isthmiaci iam pridem litoris exul,  
 secura repetit portus cum matre Palaemon. 465  
 plaustra cruore natant : metitur pellita iuventus :  
 pars morbo, pars ense perit. non lustra Lycaeï,  
 non Erymantheae iam copia sufficit umbrae  
 innumeris exusta rogis, nudataque ferro  
 sic flagrasse suas laetantur Maenala silvas. 470  
 excutiat cineres Ephyre, Spartanus et Arcas  
 tutior exanguis pedibus proculcet acervos  
 fessaque pensatis respiret Graecia poenis !  
 gens, qua non Scythicos diffusior ulla Triones  
 incoluit, cui parvus Athos angustaque Thrace, 475  
 cum transiret, erat, per te viresque tuorum  
 fracta ducum lugetque sibi iam rara superstes,  
 et, quorum turbae spatium vix praebuit orbis,  
 uno colle latent. sitiens inclusaque vallo

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<sup>1</sup> = Corinth.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

to their various prayers, gives tardy assent to their entreaties and of his great bounty bestows upon them peace. A covenant with Germany gave glory to the Drusi of old, but purchased by what uncertain warfare, by how many disasters! Who can recall the Rhine conquered by terror alone? That which others were enabled to win by long wars—this, Honorius, Stilicho's mere march gives thee.

Thou biddest Stilicho after restoring peace in Gaul save Greece from ruin. Vessels cover the Ionian sea; scarce can the wind fill out so many sails. Neptune with favouring currents attends the fleet that is to save Corinth, and young Palaemon, so long an exile from the shores of his isthmus, returns in safety with his mother to the harbour. The blood of barbarians washes their chariots; the ranks of skin-clad warriors are mowed down, some by disease, some by the sword. The glades of Lycaeus, the dark and boundless forests of Erymanthus, are not enough to furnish such countless funeral pyres; Maenalus rejoices that the axe has stripped her of her woods to provide fuel for such a holocaust. Let Ephyre<sup>1</sup> rise from her ashes while Spartan and Arcadian tread under foot the heaps of slain; let Greece's sufferings be made good and her weary land be allowed to breathe once more. That nation, wider spread than any that dwells in northern Scythia, that found Athos too small and Thrace too narrow when it crossed them, that nation, I say, was conquered by thee and thy captains, and now, in the persons of the few that survive, laments its own overthrow. One hill now shelters a people whose hordes scarce the whole world could once contain. Athirst and hemmed within their rampart they

## CLAUDIAN

ereptas quaesivit aquas, quas hostibus ante      480  
contiguas alio Stilicho deflexerat actu  
mirantemque novas ignota per avia valles  
iusserat averso fluvium migrare meatu.

Obvia quid mirum vinci, cum barbarus ultro  
iam cupiat servire tibi? tua Sarmata discors      485  
sacramenta petit; proiecta pelle Gelonus  
militat; in Latios ritus transistis Alani.  
ut fortes in Marte viros animisque paratos,  
sic iustos in pace legis longumque tueris  
electos crebris nec succedentibus urges.      490  
iudicibus notis regimur, fruimurque quietis  
militiaeque bonis, ceu bellatore Quirino,  
ceu placido moderante Numa. non imminet ensis,  
nullae nobilium caedes; non crimina vulgo  
texuntur; patria maestus non truditur exul;      495  
impia continui cessant augmenta tributi;  
non infelices tabulae; non hasta refixas  
vendit opes; avida sector non voce citatur,  
nec tua privatis crescunt aeraria damnis.  
munificus largi, sed non et prodigus, auri.      500  
perdurat non empta fides nec pectora merces  
adligat; ipsa suo pro pignore castra laborant;  
te miles nutritor amat.

Quae denique Romae

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* lists of the proscribed and of their properties put up for sale.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

sought in vain for the stolen waters, that, once within our foemen's reach, Stilicho had turned aside in another course, and commanded the stream, that marvelled at its strange channel amid unknown ways, to shift its altered track.

What wonder that the nations barring thy path should fall before thee, since the barbarian of his own choice now seeks to serve thee ? The Sarmatae, ever a prey to internal strife, beg to swear allegiance to thee ; the Geloni cast off their cloaks of hide and fight for thee ; you, O Alans, have adopted the customs of Latium. As thou choosest for war men that are brave and eager for the fray, so thou choosest for the offices of peace men that are just, and once chosen keepest them long in their charge, not ousting them by ever new successors. We know the magistrates who govern us, and we enjoy the blessings of peace while we reap the advantages of war, as though we lived at one and the same time in the reign of warlike Romulus and peace-loving Numa. A sword is no longer hung over our heads ; there are no massacres of the great ; gone is the mob of false accusers ; no melancholy exiles are driven from their fatherland. Unholy increase of perpetual taxes is at an end ; there are no accursed lists,<sup>1</sup> no auctions of plundered wealth ; the voice of greed summons not the salesman, nor is thy treasury increased by private losses. Thou art liberal with thy money, yet not wasteful of it. The loyalty of thy soldiers is a lasting loyalty, for it is not bought, nor is it gifts that win their love ; the army is anxious for the success of its own child and loves thee who wast its nursling.

And how deep is thy devotion to Rome herself !



## CLAUDIAN

cura tibi ! quam fixa manet reverentia patrum !  
 firmatur senium iuris priscamque resumunt 505  
 canitiem leges emendanturque vetustae  
 acceduntque novae. talem sensere Solonem  
 res Pandioniae ; sic armipotens Lacedaemon  
 despexit muros rigido munita Lycurgo.  
 quae sub te vel causa brevis vel iudicis error 510  
 neglegitur ? dubiis quis litibus addere finem  
 iustior et mersum latebris educere verum ?  
 quae pietas quantusque rigor tranquillaque magni  
 vis animi nulloque levis terrore moveri  
 nec nova mirari facilis ! quam docta facultas 515  
 ingenii linguaeque modus ! responsa verentur  
 legati, gravibusque latet sub moribus aetas.  
 Quantus in ore pater radiat ! quam torva voluptas  
 frontis et augusti maiestas grata pudoris !  
 iam patrias imples galeas ; iam cornus avita 520  
 temptatur vibranda tibi ; promittitur ingens  
 dextra rudimentis Romanaque vota moratur.  
 quis decor, incedis quotiens clipeatus et auro  
 squameus et rutilus cristis et casside maior !  
 sic, cum Threſcia primum sudaret in hasta, 525  
 flumina laverunt puerum Rhodopeia Martem.  
 quae vires iaculis vel, cum Gortynia tendis  
 spicula, quam felix arcus certique petitor  
 vulneris et iussum mentiri nescius ictum !  
 scis, quo more Cydon, qua dirigat arte sagittas 530

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Athens.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

How fixed abides thy reverence for the Senate !  
Old customs are preserved, law has recovered its  
ancient sanctity in the amendment of former statutes  
and by the addition of new ones. Such an one as  
thee Pandion's city<sup>1</sup> found in Solon ; even so did  
warrior Lacedaemon disdain walls, for unyielding  
Lycurgus gave it defence. What case so petty,  
what judicial error so slight that it escapes thy  
notice ? Who with truer justice put an end to  
dishonest suits and brought forth lurking truth  
from her hiding-place ? What mercy, yet what  
firmness ; thine is the quiet strength of a great soul,  
too firm to be stirred by fear, too stable to be swayed  
by the attraction of novelty. How stored with  
learning thy ready wit, how controlled thy speech ;  
ambassadors are awe-stricken at thine answers, and  
thy grave manners make them forget thy years.

How thy father's nobility shines in thy face !  
How awful is thy winning brow, how charming  
the majesty of a blushing emperor ! Boy though  
thou art, thou canst wear thy sire's helmet and  
brandish thy grandsire's spear. These exercises  
of thy youth foreshadow vast strength in man-  
hood and convince Rome that the ruler of her  
prayers is come. How fair art thou in shield and  
golden armour girt, with waving plumes and taller  
by the altitude of a helmet ! So looked the youthful  
Mars when after the toil and sweat of his first battle  
he bathed him in Thracian Rhodope's mountain  
stream. With what vigour thou hurlest the javelin,  
and, when thou stretchest the Cretan bow, what  
success attends thy shaft ! Sure is the wound it  
seeks ; it knows not how to fail the appointed  
stroke. Thou knowest in what fashion the Cretan,

## CLAUDIAN

Armenius, refugo quae sit fiducia Partho :  
 sic Amphioniae pulcher sudore palaestrae  
 Alcides pharetras Dircaequae tela solebat  
 praetemptare feris olim domitura Gigantes  
 et pacem latura polo, semperque cruentus 535  
 ibat et Alcmenae praedam referebat ovanti ;  
 caeruleus tali prostratus Apolline Python  
 implicuit fractis moritura volumina silvis.

Cum vectaris equo simulacraque Martia ludis,  
 quis mollis sinuare fugas, quis tendere contum 540  
 acrior aut subitos melior flexisse recursus ?  
 non te Massagetae, non gens exercita campo  
 Thessala, non ipsi poterunt aequare bimembres ;  
 vix comites alae, vix te suspensa sequuntur  
 agmina ferventesque tument post terga dracones. 545  
 utque tuis primum sonipes calcaribus arsit,  
 ignescunt patulae nares, non sentit harenas  
 ungula discussaeque iubae sparguntur in armos ;  
 turbantur phalerae, spumosis morsibus aurum  
 fumat, anhelantes exundant sanguine gemmae. 550  
 ipse labor pulvisque decet confusaque motu  
 caesaries ; vestis radiato murice solem  
 combibit, ingesto crispatur purpura vento.  
 si dominus legeretur equis, tua posceret ultro  
 verbera Nereidum stabulis nutritus Arion 555  
 serviretque tuis contempto Castore frenis

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## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

with what skill the Armenian, directs his arrows ; in what the retreating Parthian puts his trust. Thus was Alcides, graced with the sweat of the wrestling-ground at Thebes, wont to try his bow and Boeotian arrows on the beasts of the forest ere he turned them against the Giants and so secured peace for heaven. Stains of blood were ever upon him and proud was his mother Alcmena of the spoils he brought back home. Such was Apollo when he slew the livid serpent that enfolded and brake down forests in his dying coils.

When mounted on thy horse thou playest the mimicry of war, who is quicker smoothly to wheel in flight, who to hurl the spear, or more skilled to sweep round in swift return ? There the Massagetae are not thy peers nor the tribes of Thessaly, well versed though they be in riding, no, nor the very Centaurs themselves. Scarce can the squadrons and flying bands that accompany thee keep pace, while the wind behind thee bellies the fierce dragons on the flags. So soon as the touch of thy spur has fired thy steed, flames start from his swelling nostrils ; his hoof scarce touches the ground and his mane is outspread over his shoulders. His harness rattles and the golden bit grows warm in his foam-flecked mouth. The jewels that stud his quivering bridle are red with blood. The signs of toil, the dust stains, the disorder of thy hair all do but increase thy beauty. Thy brilliant scarlet cloak drinks in the sunlight as the wind blows its gay surface into folds. Could horses choose their riders then surely would Arion, full fed in the stables of the Nereids, have prayed for the very whip of such a master, Cyllarus would have had none of Castor, but would have looked

## CLAUDIAN

Cyllarus et flavum Xanthus sprevisset Achillem.  
 ipse tibi famulas praeberet Pegasus alas  
 portaretque libens melioraque pondera passus  
 Bellerophontearum indignaretur habenas. 560  
 quin etiam velox Aurorae nuntius Aethon,  
 qui fugat hinnitu stellas roseoque domatur  
 Lucifero, quotiens equitem te cernit ab astris,  
 invidet inque tuis mavult spumare lupatis.  
 Nunc quoque quos habitus, quantaque miracula  
 pompae 565  
 vidimus, Ausonio cum iam succinctus amictu  
 per Ligurum populos solito conspectior ires  
 atque inter niveas alte veherere cohortes,  
 obnixisque simul pubes electa lacertis  
 sidereum gestaret onus. sic numina Memphis 570  
 in vulgus proferre solet ; penetralibus exit  
 effigies, brevis illa quidem : sed plurimus infra  
 liniger imposito suspirat vecte sacerdos  
 testatus sudore deum ; Nilotica sistris  
 ripa sonat Phariosque modos Aegyptia ducit 575  
 tibia ; summissis admugit cornibus Apis.  
 omnis nobilitas, omnis tua sacra frequentat  
 Thybridis et Latii suboles ; convenit in unum  
 quidquid in orbe fuit procerum, quibus auctor honoris  
 vel tu vel genitor. numeroso consule consul 580  
 cingeris et socios gaudes admittere patres.  
 inlustri te prole Tagus, te Gallia doctis  
 civibus et toto stipavit Roma senatu.  
 portatur iuvenum cervicibus aurea sedes  
 ornatuque novo gravior deus. asperat Indus 585  
 velamenta lapis pretiosaque fila smaragdus

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

to thy reins for guidance and Xanthus have scorned to bear golden-haired Achilles. Pegasus himself had lent thee his subject wings and been glad to carry thee and, now that a mightier rider bestrode him, had turned in proud disdain from Bellerophon's bridle. Nay, Aethon, swift messenger of dawn, who routs the stars with his neigh and is driven by rosy Lucifer, seeing thee from heaven as thou ridest by, is filled with envy and would choose rather to hold thy bit in his foaming mouth.

What raiment, too, have we not seen, what miracles of splendour, when, girt with the robe of Italy, thou didst go, still more glorious than thou art wont, through the peoples of Liguria, borne aloft amid thy troops clad in triumphal white and carried upon the shoulders of chosen warriors who so proudly upheld their godlike burden! 'Tis thus that Egypt brings forth her gods to the public gaze. The image issues from its shrine ; small it is, indeed, yet many a linen-clad priest pants beneath the pole, and by his sweat testifies that he bears a god ; Nile's banks resound to the holy rattles, and Egypt's pipe drones its native measure ; Apis abases his horns and lows in reply. All the nobles, all whom Tiber and Latium rear, throng thy festival ; gathered in one are all the great ones of the earth that owe their rank either to thee or to thy sire. Many a consular surrounds thee, the consul whose good pleasure it is to associate the senate in thy triumph. The nobles of Spain, the wise men of Gaul, and the senators of Rome all throng round thee. On young men's necks is borne thy golden throne, and new adorning adds weight to deity. Jewels of India stud thy vestment, rows of green emeralds enrich

# CLAUDIAN

ducta virent ; amethystus inest et fulgor Hiberus  
 temperat arcanis hyacinthi caerulea flammis.  
 nec rudis in tali suffecit gratia textu ;  
 auget acus meritum picturatumque metallis 590  
 vivit opus : multa remorantur iaspide cultus<sup>1</sup>  
 et variis spirat Nereia baca figuris.  
 quae tantum potuit digitis mollire rigorem  
 ambitiosa colus ? vel cuius pectinis arte  
 traxerunt solidae gemmarum stamina telae ? 595  
 invia quis calidi scrutatus stagna profundi  
 Tethyos invasit gremium ? quis divitis algae  
 germina flagrant inter quae sivit harenas ?  
 quis iunxit lapides ostro ? quis miscuit ignes  
 Sidonii Rubrique maris ? tribuere colorem 600  
 Phoenices, Seres subtegmina, pondus Hydaspes.  
 hoc si Maeonias cinctu graderere per urbes,  
 in te pampineos transferret Lydia thyrsos,  
 in te Nysa choros ; dubitassent orgia Bacchi,  
 cui furerent ; irent blandae sub vincula tigres. 605  
 talis Erythraeis intextus nebrida gemmis  
 Liber agit currus et Caspia flectit eburnis  
 colla iugis : Satyri circum crinemque solutae  
 Maenades adstringunt hederis victricibus Indos ;  
 ebrius hostili velatur palmite Ganges. 610

Auspice mox laetum sonuit clamore tribunal  
 te fastos ineunte quater. sollemnia ludit  
 omina libertas ; deductum Vindice morem  
 lex celebrat, famulusque iugo laxatus erili

<sup>1</sup> *Birt vultus ; cod. Ambrosianus cultus*

<sup>1</sup> Vindex (or Vindicus) was the name of the slave who was granted his liberty by Brutus for giving information of the royalist plot in which Brutus' own sons were implicated. For the story (probably an aetiological myth to explain *vindicta*, another word for *festuca*) see Livy ii. 5.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

the seams ; there gleams the amethyst and the glint of Spanish gold makes the dark-blue sapphire show duller with its hidden fires. Nor in the weaving of such a robe was unadorned beauty enough ; the work of the needle increases its value, thread of gold and silver glows therefrom ; many an agate adorns the embroidered robes, and pearls of Ocean breathe in varied pattern. What bold hand, what distaff had skill enough to render supple elements so hard ? What loom so cunning as to weave jewels into close-textured cloth ? Who, searching out the uncharted pools of hot Eastern seas, despoiled the bosom of Tethys ? Who dared seek o'er burning sands rich growth of coral ? Who could broider precious stones on scarlet and so mingle the shining glories of the Red Sea and of Phoenicia's waters ? Tyre lent her dyes, China her silks, Hydaspes his jewels. Shouldst thou traverse Maeonian cities in such a garb, to thee would Lydia hand over her vine-wreathed thyrsus, to thee Nysa her dances ; the revels of Bacchus would have doubted whence came their madness ; tigers would pass fawning beneath thy yoke. Even such, his fawn-skin enwoven with orient gems, doth the Wine-god drive his car, guiding the necks of Hyrcanian tigers with ivory yoke ; around him satyrs and wild-haired Maenads fetter Indians with triumphant ivy, while drunken Ganges twines his hair with the vine tendril.

Already shouts of joy and of good omen resound about the consul's throne to welcome this thy fourth opening of Rome's year. Liberty enacts her wonted ceremonies ; Law observes the custom dating back to Vindex<sup>1</sup> whereby a slave freed from his master's service is introduced into thy presence and thence



## CLAUDIAN

ducitur et grato remeat securior ictu. 615  
tristis condicio pulsata fronte recedit ;  
in civem rubuere genae, tergoque removit  
verbera permissi felix iniuria voti.

Prospera Romuleis sperantur tempora rebus  
in nomen ventura tuum. praemissa futuris 620  
dant exempla fidem : quotiens te cursibus aevi  
praefecit, totiens accessit laurea patri.

ausi Danuvium quondam transare Gruthungi  
in lintres fregere nemus ; ter mille ruebant  
per fluvium plenae cuneis inmanibus alni. 625

dux Odothaeus erat. tantae conamina classis  
incipiens aetas et primus contudit annus :  
summersae sedere rates ; fluitantia numquam  
largius Arctos pavere cadavera pisces ;  
corporibus premitur Peuce ; per quinque recurrens  
ostia barbaricos vix egerit unda cruores, 631

confessusque parens Odothaei regis opima  
rettulit exuviasque tibi. civile secundis  
conficis auspiciis bellum. tibi debeat orbis  
fata Gruthungorum debellatumque tyrannum : 635  
Hister sanguineos egit te consule fluctus ;

Alpinos genitor rupit te consule montes.

Sed patriis olim fueras successibus auctor,  
nunc eris ipse tuis. semper venere triumphi  
cum trabeis sequiturque tuos victoria fasces. 640

<sup>1</sup> A reference to the Roman method of manumitting a slave *alapa et festuca*, i.e. by giving him a slight blow (*alapa*) with a rod (*festuca*). See Gaius on *vindicatio* (iv. 16) and on the whole question R. G. Nisbet in *Journal of Roman Studies*, viii. Pt. 1.

<sup>2</sup> The campaign of Theodosius against Odothaeus, King of the Gruthungi (Zosimus iv. 35 calls him 'Οδοθεος) is thus 332

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

dismissed—a freeman thanks to that envied stroke.<sup>1</sup> A blow upon the brow and his base condition is gone ; reddened cheeks have made him a citizen, and with the granting of his prayer a happy insult has given his back freedom from the lash.

Prosperity awaits our empire ; thy name is earnest for the fulfilment of our hopes. The past guarantees the future ; each time that thy sire made thee chief magistrate of the year the laurels of victory crowned his arms. Once the Gruthungi, hewing down a forest to make them boats, dared to pass beyond the Danube. Three thousand vessels, each crowded with a barbarous crew, made a dash across the river. Odothæus was their leader. Thy youth, nay, the first year of thy life, crushed the attempt of that formidable fleet. Its boats filled and sank ; never did the fish of that northern river feed more lavishly on the bodies of men. The island of Peuce was heaped high with corpses. Scarce even through five mouths could the river rid itself of barbarian blood, and thy sire, owning thine influence, gave thanks to thee for the spoils won in person from King Odothæus. Consul a second time thou didst end civil war by thine auspices. Let the world thank thee for the overthrow of the Gruthungi and the defeat of their king ; thou wast consul when the Danube ran red with their blood, thou wast consul, too, when thy sire crossed the Alps to victory.<sup>2</sup>

But thou, once author of thy father's successes, shalt now be author of thine own. Triumph has ever attended thy consulship and victory thy fasces.

dated as 386, the year of Honorius' first consulship (see note on viii. 153). Honorius' second consulship (394) saw the defeat of Eugenius.

## CLAUDIAN

sis, precor, adsiduus consul Mariique relinquo  
 et senis Augusti numerum. quae gaudia mundo,  
 per tua lanugo cum serpere coeperit ora,  
 cum tibi protulerit festas nox pronuba taedas !  
 quae tali devota toro, quae murice fulgens 645  
 ibit in amplexus tanti regina mariti ?  
 quaenam tot divis veniet nurus, omnibus arvis  
 et toto donanda mari ? quantusque feretur  
 idem per Zephyri metas Hymenaeus et Euri !  
 o mihi si liceat thalamis intendere carmen 650  
 conubiale tuis, si te iam dicere patrem !  
 tempus erit, cum tu trans Rheni cornua victor,  
 Arcadius captae spoliis Babylonis onustus  
 communem maiore toga signabitur annum ;  
 crinitusque tuo sudabit fasce Suebus, 655  
 ultima fraternas horrebunt Bactra secures.

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<sup>1</sup> Marius was consul seven, Augustus thirteen, times.

## THE FOURTH CONSULSHIP OF HONORIUS

Heaven grant thou mayest be our perpetual consul and outnumber Marius<sup>1</sup> and old Augustus. Happy universe that shall see the first down creep over thy cheeks, and the wedding-night that shall lead forth for thee the festal torches. Who shall be consecrated to such a couch; who, glorious in purple, shall pass, a queen, to the embraces of such a husband? What bride shall come to be the daughter of so many gods, dowered with every land and the whole sea? How gloriously shall the nuptial song be borne at once to farthest East and West! O may it be mine to sing thy marriage-hymn, mine presently to hail thee father! The time will come when, thou victorious beyond the mouths of the Rhine, and thy brother Arcadius laden with the spoil of captured Babylon, ye shall endow the year with yet more glorious majesty; when the long-haired Suebian shall bear the arms of Rome and the distant Bactrian tremble beneath the rule of thyself and thy brother.

PANEGYRICUS  
DICTUS MANLIO THEODORO CONSULI

PRAEFATIO

(XVI.)

Audebisne, precor, tantae subiecta catervae,  
inter tot proceres, nostra Thalia, loqui ?  
nec te fama vetat, vero quam celsius auctam  
vel servasse labor vel minuisse pudor ?  
an tibi continuis crevit fiducia castris 5  
totaque iam vatis pectora miles habet ?  
culmina Romani maiestatemque senatus  
et, quibus exultat Gallia, cerne viros.  
omnibus audimur terris mundique per aures  
ibimus. ah nimius consulis urget amor ! 10  
Iuppiter, ut perhibent, spatium cum discere vellet  
naturae regni nescius ipse sui,  
armigeros utrimque duos aequalibus alis  
misit ab Eois Occiduisque plagis.  
Parnasus geminos fertur iunxisse volatus ; 15  
contulit alternas Pythius axis aves.  
Princeps non aquilis terras cognoscere curat ;  
certius in vobis aestimat imperium.  
hoc ego concilio collectum metior orbem ;  
hoc video coetu quidquid ubique micat. 20

<sup>1</sup> See Introduction, p. xv. Judging from this poem Manlius started by being an *advocatus* in the praetorian prefect's court, was then *praeses* of some district in Africa, then governor (*consularis*) of Macedonia, next recalled to Rome as Gratian's *magister epistularum*, then *comes*  
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PANEGYRIC ON THE CONSULSHIP OF  
FL. MANLIUS THEODORUS<sup>1</sup> (A.D. 399)

PREFACE

(XVI)

Wilt dare to sing, my Muse, when so great, so august an assembly shall be thy critic? Does not thine own renown forbid thee? 'Tis greater now than thou deservest; how hard then to enhance, how disgraceful to diminish it! Or has thine assurance grown through ever dwelling in the camp, and does the soldier now wholly possess the poet's breast? Behold the flower of the Roman senate, the majesty, the pride, the heroes of Gaul. The whole earth is my audience, my song shall sound in the ears of all the world. Alack! Love for our consul constrains too strongly. Jove, 'tis said, when he would fain learn its extent (for he knew not the bounds of his own empire) sent forth two eagles of equal flight from the East and from the West. On Parnassus, as they tell, their twin flights met; the Delphic heaven brought together the one bird and the other. Our Emperor needs no eagles to teach him the magnitude of his domains; yourselves are preceptors more convincing. 'Tis this assembly that gives to me the measure of the universe; here I see gathered all the brilliance of the world.

*sacrarum largitionum* (=ecclesiastical treasurer) and after that praetorian prefect of Gaul (ll. 50-53).

## PANEGYRICUS

(XVII.)

Ipsa quidem Virtus pretium sibi, solaque late  
Fortunae secura nitet nec fascibus ullis  
erigitur plausuve petit clarescere vulgi.  
nil opis externae cupiens, nil indiga laudis,  
divitiis animosa suis inmotaque cunctis 5  
casibus ex alta mortalia despicit arce.  
attamen invitam blande vestigat et ultro  
ambit honor : docuit totiens a rure profectus  
lictor et in mediis consul quaesitus aratris.  
te quoque naturae sacris mundique vacantem, 10  
emeritum pridem desudatisque remotum  
iudiciis eadem rursum complexa potestas  
evehit et reducem notis imponit habenis.  
accedunt trabeae : nil iam, Theodore, relictum,  
quo virtus animo crescat, vel splendor honori.<sup>1</sup> 15  
culmen utrumque tenes : talem te protinus anni  
formavere rudes, et dignum vita curuli  
traxit iter primaeque senes cessere iuventae.  
iam tum canities animi, iam dulce loquendi

<sup>1</sup> honori *conject.* Birt ; honore *codd.*

## PANEGYRIC

### (XVII)

Virtue is its own reward ; alone with its far-flung splendour it mocks at Fortune ; no honours raise it higher nor does it seek glory from the mob's applause. External wealth cannot arouse its desires, it asks no praise but makes its boast of self-contained riches, and unmoved by all chances it looks down upon the world from a lofty citadel. Yet in its own despite importunate honours pursue it, and offer themselves unsought ; that the lictor coming from the farm hath ofttimes proved and a consul sought for even at the plough. Thou, too, who wert at leisure to study the mysteries of nature and the heavens, thou who hadst served thy time and retired from the law courts where thou hadst toiled so long, art once more enfolded by a like dignity, which, raising thee aloft, sets in thy returning hands the familiar rein. The consulship now is thine, Theodorus, nor is there now aught left to add to thy virtues or to the glory of thy name. Thou art now at the summit of both ; from thine earliest years thy character was thus formed, the whole course of thy life was worthy of the curule chair ; thy earliest youth outrivalled age. Even then thy mind was hoar, thy pleasant talk weighty, thy



## CLAUDIAN

pondus et attonitas sermo qui duceret aures. 20  
 mox undare foro victrix opulentia linguae  
 tutarique reos. ipsa haec amplissima sedes  
 orantem stupuit, bis laudatura regentem.  
 hinc te pars Libyae moderantem iura probavit,  
 quae nunc tota probat ; longi sed pignus amoris 25  
 exiguae peperere morae populumque clientem  
 publica mansuris testantur vocibus aera.  
 inde tibi Macetum tellus et credita Pellae  
 moenia, quae famulus quondam ditavit Hydaspes ;  
 tantaque commissae revocasti gaudia genti 30  
 mitibus arbitriis, quantum bellante Philippo  
 floruit aut nigri cecidit cum regia Pori.

Sed non ulterius te praebuilt urbibus aula :  
 maluit esse suum ; terris edicta daturus,  
 supplicibus responsa venis. oracula regis 35  
 eloquio crevere tuo, nec dignius umquam  
 maiestas meminit sese Romana locutam.  
 hinc sacrae mandantur opes orbisque tributa  
 possessi, quidquid fluviis evolvitur auri,  
 quidquid luce procul venas rimata sequaces 40  
 abdita pallentis fodit sollertia Bessi.

Ac velut exertus lentandis navita tonsis  
 praeficitur lateri custos ; hinc ardua prorae  
 temperat et fluctus tempestatesque futuras  
 edocet ; adsiduo cum Dorida vicerit usu, 45  
 iam clavum totamque subit torquere carinam :

## THE CONSULSHIP OF MANLIUS

converse the admiration and delight of all that heard it. The wealth of thy triumphant eloquence soon overflowed the forum and brought safety to the accused. Yea, this most august assembly was astonished at thy pleading, as it was twice to applaud thy governance. Next, a part of Libya approved the administration which it now in its entirety enjoys ; but thy brief stay won for thee a pledge of perpetual love, and public statues bear witness with enduring eloquence that thou wert a nation's guardian. Macedonia was next committed to thy care and the walls of Pella, enriched once by conquered Hydaspes. The mildness of thy rule brought to the country entrusted to thee such joy as it once knew under warlike Philip or when the empire of Indian Porus fell to Alexander's arms.

But Rome could not spare thy services longer to the provinces ; she chose rather to have thee for her own ; thou comest to give edicts to the world, to make reply to suppliants. A monarch's utterance has won dignity from thine eloquence, never can the majesty of Rome recall when she spoke more worthily. After this the offerings and wealth of the world, the tribute of the empire, is entrusted to thy care ; the gold washed down by the rivers and that dug out of deep Thracian mines by the skill of pale-faced Bessi who track the hidden seams—all is thine.

As a sailor skilled in wielding the oar is at first set in charge of but a side of the vessel, then, when he can manage the lofty prow and is able, thanks to his long experience of the sea, to know beforehand what storms and tempests the vessel is like to encounter, he has charge of the helm and is entrusted with the

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sic cum clara diu mentis documenta dedisses,  
 non te parte sui, sed in omni corpore sumpsit  
 imperium cunctaque dedit tellure regendos  
 rectores. Hispana tibi Germanaque Tethys 50  
 paruit et nostro diducta Britannia mundo,  
 diversoque tuas coluerunt gurgite voces  
 lentus Arar Rhodanusque ferox et dives Hiberus.  
 o quotiens doluit Rhenus, qua barbarus ibat,  
 quod te non geminis frueretur iudice ripis ! 55  
 unius fit cura viri, quodcumque rubescit  
 occasu, quodcumque dies devexior ambit.

Tam celer adsiduos explevit cursus honores ;  
 una potestatum spatiis interfuit aetas  
 totque gradus fati iuvenilibus intulit annis. 60

Postquam parta quies et summum nacta cacumen  
 iam secura petit privatum gloria portum,  
 ingenii redeunt fructus aliique labores,  
 et vitae pars nulla perit : quodcumque recedit  
 litibus, incumbit studiis, animusque vicissim 65  
 aut curam imponit populis aut otia Musis.  
 omnia Cecropiae relegis secreta senectae  
 discutiens, quid quisque novum mandaverit aevo  
 quantaque diversae producant agmina sectae.

Namque aliis princeps rerum disponitur aër ; 70  
 hic confidit aquis ; hic procreat omnia flammis.

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian refers to the early Ionian philosophers. Anaximenes believed that air was the first principle of all things, Thales said water, Heraclitus fire. l. 72 refers to Empedocles who postulated the four elements and two principles, love and hate, which respectively made and unmade the universe out of the elements. The "*hic*" of l. 75 may be Democritus or it may refer to the Sceptic, Pyrrho. The "*hic*" of l. 76 is Anaxagoras, the friend of Pericles. "*Ille*" (79) may be taken to refer to Leucippus, the first of the atomic philosophers ; he postulated infinite  
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direction of the entire ship ; so when thou hadst long given illustrious proofs of thy character, the empire of Rome summoned thee to govern not a part but the whole of itself, and set thee as ruler over all the rulers of the world. The seas of Spain, the German ocean obeyed thee and Britain, so far removed from our continent. Rivers of all lands observed thy statutes, slow-flowing Saône, swift Rhone, and Ebro rich in gold. How often did the Rhine, in those districts where the barbarians dwell, lament that the blessings of thy rule extended not to both banks ! All the lands the setting sun bathes in its rays, all that its last brilliance illumines are entrusted to the charge of one man.

So swiftly did thy career fill office after office ; a single period of life was enough for the round of dignities and gave to thy youthful years every step on fortune's ladder.

When repose was earned and now, after reaching the highest place, glory, laying care aside, seeks refuge in a private life, genius again wins reward from other tasks. No part of life is lost : all that is withdrawn from the law courts is devoted to the study, and thy mind in turn either bestows its efforts on the State or its leisure on the Muses. Once more thou readest the secrets of ancient Athens, examining the discoveries with which each sage has enriched posterity and noting what hosts of disciples the varying schools produce.

For some hold that air <sup>1</sup> is the first beginning of all things, others that water is, others again derive the sum of things from fire. Another, destined to space. "*Hi*" (82) = Democritus, Epicurus, and other atomists. "*Alii*" (83) are the Platonists.

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alter in Aetnaeas casurus sponte favillas  
 dispergit revocatque deum rursusque receptis  
 nectit amicitii quidquid discordia solvit.  
 corporis hic damnat sensus verumque videri 75  
 pernegat. hic semper lapsurae pondera terrae  
 conatur rapido caeli fulcire rotatu  
 accenditque diem praerupti turbine saxi.  
 ille ferox unoque tegi non passus Olympo  
 immensum per inane volat finemque perosus 80  
 parturit innumeros angusto pectore mundos.  
 hi vaga collidunt caecis primordia plagis.  
 numina constituunt alii casusque relegant.  
 Graiorum obscuras Romanis floribus artes  
 inradias, vicibus gratis formare loquentes 85  
 suetus et alterno verum contexere nodo.  
 quidquid Socratico manavit ab ordine, quidquid  
 docta Cleanthae sonuerunt atria turbae,  
 inventum quodcumque tuo, Chrysippe, recessu,  
 quidquid Democritus risit dixitque tacendo 90  
 Pythagoras, uno se pectore cuncta vetustas  
 condidit et maior collectis viribus exit.  
 ornantur veteres et nobiliore magistro  
 in Latium spretis Academia migrat Athenis,  
 ut tandem propius discat, quo fine beatum 95  
 dirigitur, quae norma boni, qui limes honesti ;  
 quaenam membra sui virtus divisa domandis  
 obiectet vitiis ; quae pars iniusta recidat,  
 quae vincat ratione metus, quae frenet amores ;  
 aut quotiens elementa doces semperque fluentis 100

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian's way of saying that Manlius translates Greek philosophy into clear and elegant Latin, throwing his translation into the form of a dialogue.

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fall self-immolated into Etna's fiery crater, reduces God to principles of dispersion and re-collection and binds again in resumed friendship all that discord separates. This philosopher allows no authority to the senses and denies that the truth can be perceived. Another seeks to explain the suspension of the world in space by the rapid revolution of the sky (whence else the world would fall) and kindles day's fires by the whirl of a rushing rock. That fearless spirit, not content with the covering of but one sky, flies through the limitless void and, scorning a limit, conceives in one small brain a thousand worlds. Others make wandering atoms clash with blind blows, while others again set up deities and banish chance.

Thou dost adorn the obscure learning of Greece with Roman flowers,<sup>1</sup> skilled to shape speech in happy interchange and weave truth's garland with alternate knots. All the lore of Socrates' school, the learning that echoed in Cleanthes' lecture-room, the thoughts of the stoic Chrysippus in his retreat, all the laughter of Democritus, all that Pythagoras spoke by silence—all the wisdom of the ancients is stored in that one brain whence it issues forth the stronger for its concentration. The ancients gain fresh lustre and, scorning Athens, the Academy migrates to Latium under a nobler master, the more exactly at last to learn by what end happiness guides its path, what is the rule of the good, the goal of the right; what division of virtue should be set to combat and overthrow each separate vice, and what part of virtue it is that curbs injustice, that causes reason to triumph over fear, that holds lust in check. How often hast thou taught us the nature

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materiae causas : quae vis animaverit astra  
 impuleritque choros ; quo vivat machina motu ;  
 sidera cur septem retro nitantur in ortus  
 obluctata polo ; variisne meatibus idem  
 arbiter an geminae convertant aethera mentes ;  
 sitne color proprius rerum, lucisne repulsu 106  
 eludant aciem ; tumidos quae luna recursus  
 nutriat Oceani ; quo fracta tonitrua vento,  
 quis trahat imbriferas nubes, quo saxa creentur  
 grandinis ; unde rigor nivibus ; quae flamma per  
 auras 110

excutiat rutilos tractus aut fulmina velox  
 torqueat aut tristem figat crinita cometem.

Iam tibi compositam fundaverat ancora puppim,  
 telluris iam certus eras ; fecunda placebant  
 otia ; nascentes ibant in saecula libri : 115  
 cum subito liquida cessantem vidit ab aethra  
 Iustitia et tanto viduatas iudice leges.  
 continuo frontem limbo velata pudicam  
 deserit Autumni portas, qua vergit in Austrum  
 Signifer et noctis reparant dispendia Chelae. 120  
 pax avibus, quacumque volat, rabiemque frementes  
 deposuere ferae ; laetatur terra reverso  
 numine, quod prisci post tempora perdidit auri.  
 illa per occultum Ligurum se moenibus infert  
 et castos levibus plantis ingressa penates 125  
 invenit aetherios signantem pulvere cursus,  
 quos pia sollicito deprendit pollice Memphis :  
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of the elements and the causes of matter's ceaseless change ; what influence has given life to the stars, moving them in their courses ; what quickens with movement the universal frame. Thou tellest why the seven planets strive backward towards the East, doing battle with the firmament ; whether there is one lawgiver to different movements or two minds govern heaven's revolution ; whether colour is a property of matter or whether objects deceive our sight and owe their colours to reflected light ; how the moon causes the ebb and flow of the tide ; which wind brings about the thunder's crash, which collects the rain clouds and by which the hail-stones are formed ; what causes the coldness of snow and what is that flame that ploughs its shining furrow through the sky, hurls the swift thunderbolt, or sets in heaven's dome the tail of the baleful comet.

Already had the anchor stayed thy restful bark, already thou wert minded to go ashore ; fruitful leisure charmed and books were being born for immortality, when, of a sudden, Justice looked down from the shining heaven and saw thee at thine ease, saw Law, too, deprived of her great interpreter. She stayed not but, wreathing her chaste forehead with a band, left the gates of Autumn where the Standard-bearer dips towards the south and the Scorpion makes good the losses of the night. Where'er she flies a peace fell upon the birds and howling beasts laid aside their rage. Earth rejoices in the return of a deity lost to her since the waning of the age of gold. Secretly Justice enters the walls of Milan, Liguria's city, and penetrating with light step the holy palace finds Theodorus marking in the sand those heavenly movements which reverent Memphis discovered by



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quae moveant momenta polum, quam certus in astris  
 error, quis tenebras solis causisque meantem  
 defectum indicat numerus, quae linea Phoeben 130  
 damnet et excluso pallentem fratre relinquat.  
 ut procul adspexit fulgentia Virginis ora  
 cognovitque deam, vultus veneratus amicos  
 occurrit scriptaeque notas confundit harenae.

Tum sic diva prior : " Manli, sincera bonorum 135  
 congeries, in quo veteris vestigia recti  
 et ductos video mores meliore metallo :  
 iam satis indultum studiis, Musaeque tot annos  
 eripere mihi. pridem te iura repossunt :  
 adgrederet et nostro rursum te redde labori 140  
 nec tibi sufficiat transmissae gloria vitae.  
 humanum curare genus quis terminus umquam  
 praescipit ? nullas recipit prudentia metas.  
 adde quod haec multis potuit contingere sedes,  
 sed meriti tantum redeunt actusque priores 145  
 commendat repetitus honos, virtusque reducit  
 quos fortuna legit.<sup>1</sup> melius magnoque petendum  
 credis in abstrusa rerum ratione morari ?  
 scilicet illa tui patriam praecepta Platonis  
 erexere magis, quam qui responsa secutus 150  
 obruit Eoas classes urbemque carinis  
 vexit et arsuras Medo subduxit Athenas ?  
 Spartanis potuit robur praestare Lycurgus  
 matribus et sexum leges vicere severae

<sup>1</sup> *Birt* regit with the MSS. (he suggests nequit); *Heinsius* legit

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<sup>1</sup> Virgo (= Astraea) was a recognized synonym for the goddess Justice; see *Virg. Ec.* iv. 6.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Themistocles.

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anxious reckoning. He sought the forces that move the heavens, the fixed (though errant) path of the planets, the calculation which predicts the overshadowing of the sun and its surely-fixed eclipse, and the line that sentences the moon to be left in darkness by shutting out her brother. Soon as from afar he beheld the shining face of the Maiden<sup>1</sup> and recognized the goddess, reverencing that dear countenance, he hurries to meet her, effacing from the sand the diagrams he had drawn.

The goddess was the first to speak. "Manlius, in whom are gathered all the virtues unalloyed, in whom I see traces of ancient justice and manners moulded of a purer metal, thou hast devoted time enough now to study; all these years have the Muses reft from me my pupil. Long has Law demanded thy return to her allegiance. Come, devote thyself once more to my service, and be not content with the glory of thy past. To the service of mankind what boundary ever set the limits? Wisdom accepts no ends for herself. Then, too, to many has this office fallen, as well it might, but only the worthy return thereto; reappointment to office is the best commendation of office well held, and virtue brings back him whom chance elects. Deemst thou it a better and a worthier aim to spend thy days in exploring Nature's secret laws? Dost thou think it was thy Plato's precepts raised his country to glory rather than he<sup>2</sup> who, in obedience to the oracle, sank the Persian fleet, put his city on ship-board and saved from the Medes Athens destined for the flames? Lycurgus could dower the mothers of Sparta with a man's courage and by his austere laws correct the weakness of their sex; by for-

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civibus et vetitis ignavo credere muro 155  
 tutius obiecit nudam Lacedaemona bellis :  
 at non Pythagorae monitus annique silentes  
 famosum Oebalii luxum pressere Tarenti.

“ Quis vero insignem tanto sub principe curam  
 respuat ? aut quando meritis maiora patebunt 160  
 praemia ? quis demens adeo qui iungere sensus  
 cum Stilichone neget ? similem quae protulit aetas  
 consilio vel Marte virum ? nunc Brutus amaret  
 vivere sub regno, tali succumberet aulae  
 Fabricius, cuperent ipsi servire Catones. 165  
 nonne vides, ut nostra soror Clementia tristes  
 obtundat gladios fratresque amplexa serenos  
 adsurgat Pietas, fractis ut lugeat armis  
 Perfidia et laceris morientes crinibus hydri  
 lambant invalido Furiarum vincla veneno ? 170  
 exultat cum Pace Fides. iam sidera cunctae  
 liquimus et placidas inter discurremus urbes.  
 nobiscum, Theodore, redi.”

Subit ille loquentem

talibus : “ agrestem dudum me, diva, reverti  
 cogis et infectum longi rubigine ruris 175  
 ad tua signa vocas. nam quae mihi cura tot annis  
 altera quam duras sulcis mollire novales,  
 nosse soli vires, nemori quae commoda rupes,  
 quis felix oleae tractus, quae glaeba faveret  
 frugibus et quales tegeret vindemia colles ? 180  
 terribiles rursum lituos veteranus adibo  
 et desueta vetus temptabo caerula vector ?

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bidding his fellow-citizens to put a coward's trust in walls, he set Lacedemon to face wars more securely in her nakedness ; but all the teaching of Pythagoras and his years of silence never crushed the infamous licentiousness of Sparta's colony Tarentum.

" Besides, beneath such an emperor, who could refuse office ? Was ever merit more richly rewarded ? Who is so insensate as not to wish to meet Stilicho in council ? Has ever any age produced his equal in prudence or in bravery ? Now would Brutus love to live under a king ; to such a court Fabricius would yield, the Catos themselves long to give service. Seest thou not how my sister Mercy blunts the cruel sword of war ; how Piety rises to embrace the two noble brothers ; how Treason laments her broken weapons and the snakes, writhing in death upon the Furies' wounded heads, lick their chains with enfeebled venom ? Peace and loyalty are triumphant. All the host of heaven leaves the stars and wanders from peaceful city to peaceful city. Return thou with us, Theodorus."

Then Theodorus made answer : " From my long accustomed fields, goddess, thou urgest me to return, summoning to thy standard one grown rusty in the distant countryside. What else has been my care all these years but to break up the stubborn fallow-land into furrows, to know the nature of the soil, the rocky land suitable to the growth of trees, the country where the olive will flourish, the fields that will yield rich harvests of grain or the hills which my vineyards may clothe ? I have served my time ; am I to hearken once more to the dreadful trumpet ? Is the old helmsman again to brave the seas whose lore he has forgotten ?

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collectamque diu et certis utcumque locatam  
 sedibus in dubium patiar deponere famam ?  
 nec me, quid valeat natura fortior usus, 185  
 praeterit aut quantum neglectae defluat arti.  
 desidis aurigae non audit verbera currus,  
 nec manus agnoscit quem non exercuit arcum.  
 esse sed iniustum fateor quodcumque negatur  
 iustitiae. tu prima hominem silvestribus antris 190  
 elicis et foedo deterges saecula victu.  
 te propter colimus leges animosque ferarum  
 exuimus. nitidis quisquis te sensibus hausit,  
 inruet intrepidus flammis, hiberna secabit  
 aequora, confertos hostes superabit inermis. 195  
 ille vel Aethiopum pluviis solabitur aestus ;  
 illum trans Scythiam vernus comitabitur aër."

Sic fatus tradente dea suscepit habenas  
 quattuor ingenti iuris temone refusas.  
 prima Padum Thybrimque ligat crebisque micantem  
 urbibus Italiam ; Numidas <sup>1</sup> Poenosque secunda 201  
 temperat ; Illyrico se tertia porrigit orbi ;  
 ultima Sardiniam, Cynnum trifidamque retentat  
 Sicaniam et quidquid Tyrrhena tunditur unda  
 vel gemit Ionia. nec te tot lumina rerum 205  
 aut tantum turbavit onus ; sed ut altus Olympi  
 vertex, qui spatio ventos hiemesque relinquit,  
 perpetuum nulla temeratus nube serenum  
 celsior exurgit pluviis auditque ruentes

<sup>1</sup> Numidas *Heinsius* ; *Birt* † *Lydos*

## THE CONSULSHIP OF MANLIUS

My fame has long been gathered in and where it is 'tis in safe custody ; am I to suffer its being put to the hazard ? Full well do I realize that habit is a stronger force than nature, nor am I ignorant of the rapidity with which we forget an art that we have ceased to exercise. The whip of an unpractised charioteer is powerless to urge on his horses ; the hand that is unaccustomed thereto cannot bend the bow. And yet it were unjust, I admit, to refuse aught to Justice. Thou first didst draw man from his woodland cave and free the human race from its foul manner of life. Thanks to thee we practise law and have put off the temper of wild beasts. Whosoever has drunk of thee with pure heart will rush fearless through flames, will sail the wintry seas, and overcome unarmed the densest company of foemen. Justice is to the just as rain to temper even the heat of Ethiopia, a breath of spring to journey with him across the deserts of Scythia."

So spake he and took from the goddess' hand the four reins that lay stretched along the huge pole of Justice's car. The first harnesses the rivers Po and Tiber and Italy with all her glittering towns ; the second guides Numidia and Carthage ; the third runs out across the land of Illyria ; the last holds Sardinia, Corsica, three-cornered Sicily and the coasts beaten by the Tyrrhenian wave or that echo to the Ionian. The splendour and magnitude of the undertaking troubled thee not one whit ; but as the lofty summit of Olympus, far removed from the winds and tempests of the lower air, its eternal bright serene untroubled by any cloud, is lifted above the rain storms and hears the hurricane rushing

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sub pedibus nimbos et rauca tonitrua calcat : 210  
 sic patiens animus per tanta negotia liber  
 emergit similisque sui, iustique tenorem  
 flectere non odium cogit, non gratia suadet.  
 nam spretas quis opes intactaque pectora lucro  
 commemoret ? fuerint aliis haec forte decora : 215  
 nulla potest laus esse tibi, quae crimina purget.  
 servat inoffensam divina modestia vocem :  
 temperiem servant oculi ; nec lumina fervor  
 asperat aut rabidas suffundit sanguine venas,  
 nullaque mutati tempestas proditur oris. 220  
 quin etiam sontes expulsa corrigis ira  
 et placidus delicta domas ; nec dentibus umquam  
 instrepis horrendum, fremitu nec verbera poscis.  
 Qui fruitur poena, ferus est, legumque videtur  
 vindictam praestare sibi ; cum viscera felle 225  
 canduerint, ardet stimulis ferturque nocendi  
 prodigus, ignarus causae : dis proximus ille,  
 quem ratio, non ira movet, qui facta rependens  
 consilio punire potest. mucrone cruento  
 se iactent alii, studeant feritate timeri 230  
 addictoque hominum cumulent aeraria censu.  
 lene fluit Nilus, sed cunctis amnibus extat  
 utilior nullo confessus murmure vires ;  
 acrior ac rapidus tacitas praetermeat ingens  
 Danuvius ripas ; eadem clementia sani 235  
 gurgitis immensum deducit in ostia Gangen.  
 torrentes inmane fremant lassisque minentur  
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beneath its feet while it treads upon the thunder's roar ; so thy patient mind, unfettered by cares so manifold, rises high above them ; thou art ever the same, no hatred can compel thee, no affection induce thee, to swerve from the path of justice. For why should any speak of riches scorned and a heart unallured by gain ? These might perhaps be virtues in others : absence of vice is no praise to bestow on thee. The calm of a god banishes anger from thy voice ; the spirit of moderation shines from thine eyes ; passion never inflames that glance or fills with blood the angry veins ; never is a tempest heralded on thy changed countenance. Nay, thou punishest the very criminals without show of anger and checkest their evil-doing with unruffled calm. Never dost thou gnash with thy teeth upon them nor shout orders for them to be chastised.

He is a savage who delights in punishment and seems to make the vengeance of the laws his own ; when his heart is inflamed with the poison of wrath he is goaded by fury and rushes on knowing nothing of the cause and eager only to do hurt. But he whom reason, not anger, animates is a peer of the gods, he who, weighing the guilt, can with deliberation balance the punishment. Let others boast them of their bloody swords and wish to be feared for their ferocity, while they fill their treasuries with the goods of the condemned. Gently flows the Nile, yet is it more beneficent than all rivers for all that no sound reveals its power. More swiftly the broad Danube glides between its quiet banks. Huge Ganges flows down to its mouths with gently moving current. Let torrents roar horribly, threaten weary



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pontibus et volvant spumoso vertice silvas :  
 pax maiora decet ; peragit tranquilla potestas,  
 quod violenta nequit, mandataque fortius urget 240  
 imperiosa quies.

Idem praedurus iniquas  
 accepisse preces, rursus, quae digna petitu,  
 largior et facilis ; nec quae comitatur honores,  
 ausa tuam leviter temptare superbia mentem.  
 frons privata manet nec se meruisse fatetur, 245  
 quae crevisse putat ; rigidi sed plena pudoris  
 elucet gravitas fastu iucunda remoto.

quae non seditio, quae non insania vulgi  
 te viso lenita cadat ? quae dissona ritu  
 barbaries, medii quam non reverentia frangat ? 250  
 vel quis non sitiens sermonis mella politi  
 deserat Orpheos blanda testudine cantus ?  
 qualem te legimus teneri primordia mundi  
 scribentem aut partes animae, per singula talem  
 cernimus et similes agnoscit pagina mores. 255

Nec dilata tuis Augusto iudice merces  
 officiis, illumque habitum, quo iungitur aulae  
 curia, qui socio procures cum principe nectit,  
 quem quater ipse gerit, perfecto detulit anno  
 deposuitque suas te succedente curules. 260  
 crescant virtutes fecundaque floreat aetas.  
 ingeniis patuit campus certusque merenti  
 stat favor : ornatur propriis industria donis.  
 surgite sopitae, quas obruit ambitus, artes.  
 nil licet invidiae, Stilicho dum prospicit orbi 265

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Manlius modestly regards his honours as a natural growth, not as the reward of merit.

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bridges, and sweep down forests in their foaming whirl ; 'tis repose befits the greater ; quiet authority accomplishes what violence cannot, and that mandate compels more which comes from a commanding calm.

“Thou art as deaf to the prayers of injustice as thou art generous and attentive where the demand is just. Pride, that ever accompanies office, has not so much as dared to touch thy mind. Thy look is a private citizen's nor allows that it has deserved what it thinks to have but grown <sup>1</sup> ; but full of stately modesty shines forth a gravity that charms because pride is banished. What sedition, what madness of the crowd could see thee and not sink down appeased ? What country so barbarous, so foreign in its customs, as not to bow in reverence before thy mediation ? Who that desires the honied charm of polished eloquence would not desert the lyre-accompanied song of tuneful Orpheus ? In every activity we see thee as we see thee in thy books, describing the creation of the newly-fashioned earth or the parts of the soul ; we recognize thy character in thy pages. .

The Emperor has not been slow in rewarding thy merit. The robe that links Senate-house and palace, that unites nobles with their prince—the robe that he himself has four times worn, he hath at the year's end handed on to thee, and left his own curule chair that thou mightest follow him. Grow, ye virtues ; be this an age of prosperity ! The path of glory lies open to the wise ; merit is sure of its reward ; industry dowered with the gifts it deserves. Arts, rise from the slumber into which depraved ambition had forced you ! Envy cannot hold up her head while Stilicho and his godlike

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sidereusque gener. non hic violata curulis,  
turpia non Latios incestant nomina fastos ;  
fortibus haec concessa viris solisque gerenda  
patribus et Romae numquam latura pudorem.

Nuntia votorum celeri iam Fama volatu 270  
moverat Aonios audito consule lucos.

concinuit felix Helicon fluxitque Aganippe  
largior et docti riserunt floribus amnes.  
Uranie redimita comas, qua saepe magistra  
Manlius igniferos radio descripserat axes, 275

sic alias hortata deas : " patimurne, sorores,  
optato procul esse die nec limina nostri  
consulis et semper dilectas visimus aedes ?  
notior est Helicone<sup>1</sup> domus. gestare curules  
et fasces subiisse libet. miracula plebi 280  
colligite et claris nomen celebrate theatris.

" Tu Iovis aequorei summersam fluctibus aulam  
oratum volucres, Erato, iam perge quadrigas,  
a quibus haud umquam palmam rapturus Arion.  
inlustret circum sonipes, quicumque superbo 285  
perstrepit hinnitu Baetin, qui splendida potat  
stagna Tagi madidoque iubas adspergitur auro.

" Calliope, liquidas Alciden posce palaestras :  
cuncta Palaemoniis manus explorata coronis  
adsit et Eleo pubes laudata Tonanti. 290

" Tu iuga Taygeti frondosaque Maenala, Clio,  
i Triviae supplex ; non aspernata rogantem  
amphitheatrali faveat Latonia pompae.

<sup>1</sup> *codd. have Stilichone ; Birt obelizes the line ; it is only found in V ; Helicone Gevartius.*

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<sup>1</sup> Claudian is thinking of Eutropius, Manlius' eastern colleague.

## THE CONSULSHIP OF MANLIUS

son-in-law direct the state. Here is no pollution of the consul's office, no shameful names disgrace the Latin fasti; here the consulship is an honour reserved for the brave, given only to senators, never a source of scandal to Rome's city.<sup>1</sup>

Now had Fame, announcing our good fortune, winged her way to Aonia whose groves she stirred with the tidings of the new consul. Helicon raised a hymn of praise, Aganippe flowed with waters more abundant, the streams of song laughed with flowers. Then Urania, her hair wreath-crowned, Urania whose hand had oft directed Manlius' compass in marking out the starry spheres, thus addressed the other Muses: "Sisters, can we bear to be absent this longed-for day? Shall we not visit our consul's door and the house we have always loved? Better known to us is it than Helicon; gladly we draw the curule chair and bear the fasces. Bring marvels for the people's delight and make known his name in the famed theatres.

"Do thou, Erato, go visit the palace of Neptune beneath the sea and beg for four swift coursers such that even Arion could not snatch the prize from them. Let the Circus be graced by every steed to whose proud neighing Baetis re-echoes, who drinks of Tagus' shining pools and sprinkles his mane with its liquid gold.

"Calliope, ask thou of Alcides the oil of the wrestling-ground. Let all the company proved in the games at Elis follow thee and the athletes who have won fame with Olympian Jove.

"Fly, Clio, to Taygetus' heights and leafy Maenalus and beg Diana not to spurn thy petition but help the amphitheatre's pomp. Let the goddess herself

## CLAUDIAN

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| audaces legat ipsa viros, qui colla ferarum<br>arte ligent certoque premant venabula nisu.  | 295 |
| ipsa truces fetus captivaeque ducat ab antris<br>prodigia et caedis sitientem differat arcum.<br>convenient ursi, magna quos mole ruentes<br>torva Lycaoniis Helice miretur ab astris,<br>perfossique rudant populo pallente leones,          | 300 |
| quales Mygdonio curru frenare Cybebe<br>optet et Herculei mallent fregisse lacerti.<br>obvia fulminei properent ad vulnera pardi<br>semine permixto geniti, cum forte leaenae<br>nobiliorem uterum viridis corrumpit adulter ;                | 305 |
| hi maculis patres referunt et robore matres.<br>quidquid monstriferis nutrit Gaetulia campis,<br>Alpina quidquid tegitur nive, Gallica siquid<br>silva tenet, iaceat ; largo ditescat harena<br>sanguine ; consumant totos spectacula montes. | 310 |
| “ Nec molles egeant nostra dulcedine ludi :<br>qui laetis risum salibus movisse facetus,<br>qui nutu manibusque loquax, cui tibia flatu,<br>cui plectro pulsanda chelys, qui pulpita socco<br>personat aut alte graditur maiore cothurno,     | 315 |
| et qui magna levi detrudens murmura tactu<br>innumeras voces segetis moderatus aenae<br>intonet erranti digito penitusque trabali<br>vecte laborantes in carmina concitet undas,<br>vel qui more avium sese iaculentur in auras               | 320 |

<sup>1</sup> Helice = the Great Bear ; so does the phrase “ Lycaon’s stars,” for Lycaon was the father of Callisto who was transformed by the jealous Juno into a bear and as such translated by Jupiter to the sky. Claudian means that he wants the Great Bear to observe this assemblage of earthly bears.

<sup>2</sup> The *hydraulus* or water organ was known in Cicero’s day (*Tusc.* iii. 18. 43). It is illustrated by a piece of sculpture in the Museum at Arles (see Grove, *Dict. of Music*, under “ Organ ”).

## THE CONSULSHIP OF MANLIUS

choose out brave hunters cunningly to lasso the necks of wild animals and to drive home the hunting-spear with unfailing stroke. With her own hand let her lead forth from their caverns fierce beasts and captive monsters, laying aside her bloodthirsty bow. Let bears be gathered together, whereat, as they charge with mighty bulk, Helice may gaze in wonder from Lycaon's stars.<sup>1</sup> Let smitten lions roar till the people turn pale, lions such as Cybele would be fain to harness to her Mygdonian chariot or Hercules strangle in his mighty arms. May leopards, lightning-swift, hasten to meet the spear's wound, beasts that are born of an adulterous union what time the spotted sire did violence to the nobler lion's mate : of such beasts their markings recall the sire, their courage the dam. Whatsoever is nourished by the fields of Gaetulia rich in monsters, whatsoever lurks beneath Alpine snows or in Gallic woods, let it fall before the spear. Let large streams of blood enrich the arena and the spectacle leave whole mountains desolate.

" Nor let gentler games lack the delights we bring : let the clown be there to move the people's laughter with his happy wit, the mime whose language is in his nod and in the movements of his hands, the musician whose breath rouses the flute and whose finger stirs the lyre, the slippered comedian to whose voice the theatre re-echoes, the tragedian towering on his loftier buskin ; him too whose light touch can elicit loud music from those pipes of bronze that sound a thousand diverse notes beneath his wandering fingers and who by means of a lever stirs to song the labouring water.<sup>2</sup> Let us see acrobats who hurl themselves through the air like birds and build

## CLAUDIAN

corporaque aedificent celeri crescentia nexu,  
 quorum compositam puer amentatus in arcem  
 emicet et vinctu plantae vel cruribus haerens  
 pendula librato figat vestigia saltu.  
 mobile ponderibus descendat pegma reductis 325  
 inque chori speciem spargentes ardua flammas  
 scaena rotet varios et fingat Mulciber orbis  
 per tabulas impune vagus pictaeque citato  
 ludant igne trabes et non permissa morari  
 fida per innocuas errent incendia turre. 330  
 lascivi subito configant aequore lembi  
 stagnaque remigibus spument inmissa canoris.  
 " Consul per populos idemque gravissimus auctor  
 eloquii, duplici vita subnixus in aevum  
 procedat pariter libris fastisque legendus. 335  
 accipiat patris exemplum tribuatque nepoti  
 filius et coeptis ne desit fascibus heres.  
 decurrat trabeata domus tradatque secures  
 mutua posteritas servatoque ordine fati  
 Manlia continuo numeretur consule proles." 340

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<sup>1</sup> We do not hear of Claudian's hopes coming true. This son was, however, proconsul of Africa (Augustine, *Contra Crescon.* iii. 62).

## THE CONSULSHIP OF MANLIUS

pyramids that grow with swift entwining of their bodies, to the summit of which pyramid rushes a boy fastened by a thong, a boy who, attached there by the foot or leg, executes a step-dance suspended in the air. Let the counterweights be removed and the mobile crane descend, lowering on to the lofty stage men who, wheeling chorus-wise, scatter flames; let Vulcan forge balls of fire to roll innocuously across the boards, let the flames appear to play about the sham beams of the scenery and a tame conflagration, never allowed to rest, wander among the untouched towers. Let ships meet in mimic warfare on an improvised ocean and the flooded waters be lashed to foam by singing oarsmen.

“As consul at once and stateliest master, upborne by a twofold fame, let Manlius go forth among the peoples, read in his own books and in our calendars. May the sire's example be followed by the son<sup>1</sup> and handed on to a grandson, nor these first fasces ever lack succession. May his race pass on purple-clad, may the generations, each to each, hand on the axes, and obedient to the ordinance of fate, Manlius after Manlius add one more consul to the tale.”



## DE CONSULATU STILICHONIS

### LIBER I.

(XXI.)

Continuant superi pleno Romana favore  
gaudia successusque novis successibus augment :  
conubii necdum festivos regia cantus  
sopierat, cecinit fuso Gildone triumphos,  
et calidis thalami successit laurea sertis, 5  
sumeret ut pariter princeps nomenque mariti  
victorisque decus ; Libyae post proelia crimen  
concidit Eoum, rursusque Oriente subacto  
consule defensae surgunt Stilichone secures.  
ordine vota meant. equidem si carmen in unum 10  
tantarum sperem cumulos advolvere rerum,  
promptius imponam glaciali Pelion Ossae.  
si partem tacuisse velim, quodcumque relinquam  
maius erit. veteres actus primamque iuventam  
prosequar ? ad sese mentem praesentia ducunt. 15  
narrem iustitiam ? resplendet gloria Martis.  
armati referam vires ? plus egit inermis.  
quod floret Latium, Latio quod reddita servit  
Africa, vicinum quod nescit Hiberia Maurum,  
364

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP (A.D. 400)

### BOOK I

#### (XXI)

Ceaseless are the blessings the gods shower with full bounty upon Rome, crowning success with new successes. Scarce had the happy songs of marriage ceased to echo in the palace when the defeat of Gildo brought material for a hymn of triumph. Hard upon the garlands of passionate love followed the crown of laurel, so that the emperor won alike the name of husband and the fame of conqueror. After the war in Africa eastern sedition waned; the Orient once more was laid low and, guarded by the consul Stilicho, the axes rose in triumph. In due order are vows fulfilled. Should I hope to roll into one poem all my lofty themes, more easily should I pile Pelion on frozen Ossa. Were I silent anent a part, what I leave unsung will prove the greater. Am I to recall his deeds of old and earliest manhood? His present deeds lure away my mind. Am I to tell of his justice? His military glory outshines it. Shall I mention his prowess in war? He has done more in peace. Shall I relate how Latium flourishes, how Africa has returned to her allegiance and service, how Spain knows no more

## CLAUDIAN

tuta quod imbellem miratur Gallia Rhenum,                    20  
aut gelidam Thracen decertatosque labores  
Hebro teste canam? magnum mihi panditur aequor  
ipsaque Pierios lassant proclivia currus  
laudibus innumeris.

Etenim mortalibus ex quo  
tellus coepta coli, numquam sincera bonorum 25  
sors ulli concessa viro. quem vultus honestat,  
dedecorant mores ; animus quem pulchrior ornat,  
corpus destituit. bellis insignior ille,  
sed pacem foedat vitiis. hic publica felix,  
sed privata minus. partitum ; singula quemque 30  
nobilitant : hunc forma decens, hunc robur in armis,  
hunc rigor, hunc pietas, illum sollertia iuris,  
hunc suboles castique tori. sparguntur in omnes,  
in te mixta fluunt ; et quae divisa beatos  
efficiunt, collecta tenes. 35

Ne facta revolvam  
militiamque patris, cuius producere famam,  
si nihil egisset clarum nec fida Valenti  
dextera duxisset rutilantes crinibus alas,  
sufficeret natus Stilicho : mens ardua semper  
a puero, tenerisque etiam fulgebat in annis 40  
fortunae maioris honos. erectus et acer  
nil breve moliri, nullis haerere potentum  
liminibus fatisque loqui iam digna futuris.  
iam tum conspicuus, iam tum venerabilis ibas  
spondebatque ducem celsi nitor igneus oris 45

<sup>1</sup> We know really nothing of Stilicho's parentage save that the family was a Vandal one: *Vandalorum genere editus*, Oros. vii. 38.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

the Moor as her neighbour, how Gaul has now nought to fear from a disarmed Germany? Or shall I sing of wintry Thrace and those fierce struggles whereof Hebrus was witness? Limitless is the expanse that opens before me and even on the slopes of Helicon this weight of praise retards my muse's chariot.

For truly since man inhabited this globe never has one mortal been granted all earth's blessings without alloy. This man's face is fair but his character is evil; another has a beauteous soul but an ugly body. One is renowned in war but makes peace hideous with his vices. This man is happy in his public but unhappy in his private life. Each takes a part; each owes his fame to some one gift, to bodily beauty, to martial prowess, to strength, to uprightness of life, to knowledge of law, to his offspring and a virtuous wife. To all men else blessings come scattered, to thee they flow commingled, and gifts that separately make happy are all together thine.

I will not unfold the tale of thy sire's<sup>1</sup> warlike deeds. Had he done nothing of note, had he in loyalty to Valens never led to battle those yellow-haired companies, yet to be the father of Stilicho would have spread abroad his fame. Ever from thy cradle did thy soul aspire, and in the tender years of childhood shone forth the signs of loftier estate. Lofty in spirit and eager, nothing paltry didst thou essay; never didst thou haunt any rich man's doorstep; thy speech was such as to befit thy future dignities. A mark wert thou even then for all eyes, even then an object of reverence; the fiery brightness of thy noble countenance, the very mould

## CLAUDIAN

membrorumque modus, qualem nec carmina fingunt  
semideis. quacumque alte gradereris in urbe,  
cedentes spatii adsurgentesque videbas  
quamvis miles adhuc. taciti suffragia vulgi  
iam tibi detulerant, quidquid mox debuit aula. 50

Vix primaevus eras, pacis cum mitteris auctor  
Assyriae ; tanta foedus cum gente ferire  
commissum iuveni. Tigrim transgressus et altum  
Euphraten Babylona petis. stupuere severi  
Parthorum proceres, et plebs pharetrata videndi 55  
flagravit studio, defixaeque hospite pulchro  
Persides arcanum suspiravere calorem.  
turis odoratae cumulis et messe Sabaea  
pacem conciliant arae ; penetralibus ignem  
sacratum rapuere adytis rituque iuencos 60  
Chaldaeo stravere magi. rex ipse micantem  
inclinat dextra pateram secretaque Beli  
et vaga testatur volventem sidera Mithram.  
si quando sociis tecum venatibus ibant,  
quis Stilichone prior ferro penetrare leones 65  
comminus aut longe virgatas figere tigres ?  
flectenti faciles cessit tibi Medus habenas ;  
torquebas refugum Parthis mirantibus arcum.

Nubilis interea maturae virginis aetas  
urgebat patrias suspenso principe curas, 70  
quem simul imperioque ducem nataeque maritum  
prospiceret ; dubius toto quaerebat ab axe  
dignum coniugio generum thalamisque Serenae.

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<sup>1</sup> By Assyria Claudian means Persia. He refers to the dispatch of Stilicho in 387 as ambassador to the court of Sapor III. (383-388) to arrange about the partition of Armenia.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

of thy limbs, greater even than poets feign of demi-gods, marked thee out for a leader of men. Whithersoever thy proud form went in the city thou didst see men rise and give place to thee ; yet thou wast then but a soldier. The silent suffrage of the people had already offered thee all the honours the court was soon to owe.

Scarce hadst thou reached man's estate when thou wast sent to negotiate peace with Assyria<sup>1</sup> ; to make a treaty with so great a people was the charge entrusted to thy youth. Crossing the Tigris and the deep Euphrates thou cam'st to Babylon. The grave lords of Parthia looked at thee in amaze and the quiver-bearing mob burned with desire to behold, while the daughters of Persia gazing on their beauteous guest sighed out their hidden love. The peace is sworn at altars sweet with the fragrance of incense and the harvests of Saba. Fire is brought forth from the innermost sanctuary and the Magi sacrifice heifers according to the Chaldean ritual. The king himself dips the jewelled bowl of sacrifice and swears by the mysteries of Bel and by Mithras who guides the errant stars of heaven. Whenever they made thee sharer of their hunting, whose sword struck down the lion in close combat before that of Stilicho, whose arrow pierced the striped tiger afar before thine ? When thou didst guide the easy rein the Mede gave way to thee, and the Parthian marvelled at the bow thou didst discharge in flight.

Meanwhile a maiden of years full ripe for marriage troubled a father's heart, and the emperor doubted whom to select as her husband and as future ruler of the world ; right anxiously did he search east and west for a son-in-law worthy of being wedded

## CLAUDIAN

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| iudicium virtutis erat ; per castra, per urbes,<br>per populos animi cunctantis libra cucurrit.   | 75  |
| tu legeris tantosque viros, quos obtulit orbis,<br>intra consilium vincis sensumque legentis,<br>et gener Augustis olim socer ipse futurus<br>accedis. radiis auri Tyriaque superbit<br>maiestate torus ; comitata parentibus exit          | 80  |
| purpureis virgo. stabat pater inde tropaeis<br>inclitus ; inde pium matris regina gerebat<br>obsequium gravibus subnectens flammea gemmis.<br>tunc et Solis equos, tunc exultasse choreis<br>astra ferunt mellisque lacus et flumina lactis | 85  |
| erupisse solo, cum floribus aequora vernis<br>Bosphorus indueret roseisque evincta coronis<br>certantes Asiae taedas Europa levaret.  |     |
| Felix arbitrii princeps, qui congrua mundo<br>iudicat et primus censet, quod cernimus omnes.  | 90  |
| talem quippe virum natis adiunxit et aulae,<br>cui neque luxuries bello nec blanda periclis<br>otia nec lucis fructus pretiosior umquam<br>laude fuit. quis enim Visos in plaustra feroces<br>reppulit aut saeva Promoti caede tumentes     | 95  |
| Basternas una potuit delere ruina ?<br>Pallantis iugulum Turno moriente piavit<br>Aeneas, tractusque rotis ultricibus Hector<br>irato vindicta fuit vel quaestus Achilli.   |     |
| tu neque vesano raptas venalia curru<br>funera nec vanam corpus meditaris in unum<br>saevitiam ; turmas equitum peditumque catervas   | 100 |

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<sup>1</sup> Promotus, who had rescued Theodosius from an ambush in his war against the Visigoths in 390, lost his life in the same war the year after. Stilicho succeeded to his command.  
370

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

to Serena. Merit alone had to decide ; through camps, through cities, through nations roamed his poised and hesitating thoughts. But thou wast chosen, thus in the opinion and judgement of him who selected thee surpassing all the candidates of the whole world and becoming a son-in-law in the imperial family where thou wast shortly to become a father-in-law. The marriage-bed was ablaze with flashing gold and regal purple. The maiden steps forth accompanied by her parents clad in scarlet. On one side stood her sire, famed for his triumphs, on the other was the queen, fulfilling a mother's loving office and ordering the bridal veil beneath a weight of jewels. Then, so men say, the horses of the sun and the stars of heaven danced for joy, pools of honey and rivers of milk welled forth from the earth. Bosphorus decked his banks with vernal flowers, and Europe, entwined with rosy garlands, uplifted the torches in rivalry with Asia.

Happy our emperor in his choice ; he judges and the world agrees ; he is the first to value what we all see. Ay, for he has allied to his children and to his palace one who never preferred ease to war nor the pleasures of peace to danger, nor yet his life to his honour. Who but he could have driven back the savage Visigoths to their wagons or overwhelmed in one huge slaughter the Bastarnae puffed up with the slaying of Promotus<sup>1</sup> ? Aeneas avenged the slaughter of Pallas with the death of Turnus, Hector, dragged behind the chariot-wheels, was to wrathful Achilles either revenge or gain ; thou dost not carry off in mad chariot dead bodies for ransom nor plot idle savagery against a single corpse ; thou slayest at thy friend's tomb whole



## CLAUDIAN

hostilesque globos tumulo prosternis amici ;  
 inferiis gens tota datur. nec Mulciber auctor  
 mendacis clipei fabricataque vatibus arma 105  
 conatus iuvere tuos : tot barbara solus  
 milia iam pridem miseram vastantia Thracen  
 finibus exiguae vallis conclusa tenebas.  
 nec te terrisonus stridor venientis Alani  
 nec vaga Chunorum feritas, non falce Gelonus, 110  
 non arcu pepulere Getae, non Sarmata conto.  
 extinctique forent penitus, ni more maligno  
 falleret Augustas occultus proditor aures  
 obstrueretque moras strictumque reconderet ensem,  
 solveret obsessos, praeberet foedera captis. 115

Adsiduus castris aderat, rarissimus urbi,  
 si quando trepida princeps pietate vocaret ;  
 vixque salutatis Laribus, vix coniuge visa,  
 deterso necdum repetebat sanguine campum.  
 nec stetit Eucherii dum carperet oscula saltem 120  
 per galeam. patris stimulos ignisque mariti  
 vicit cura ducis. quotiens sub pellibus egit  
 Edonas hiemes et tardi flabra Bootae  
 sub divo Rhiphaea tulit ! cumque igne propinquo  
 frigora vix ferrent alii, tunc iste rigentem 125  
 Danuvium calcabat eques nivibusque profundum  
 scandebat cristatus Athon lateque corusco  
 curvatas glacie silvas umbone ruebat.  
 nunc prope Cimmerii tendebat litora Ponti,

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

squadrons of horse, companies of foot, and hordes of enemies. To his ghost a whole nation is offered up. Neither Vulcan's fabulous shield nor such armour as that of which poets sing the forging assisted thine efforts. Single-handed thou didst succeed in penning within the narrow confines of a single valley the vast army of barbarians that were long since ravaging the land of Thrace. For thee the fearful shriek of the onrushing Alan had no terrors nor the fierceness of the nomad Hun nor the scimitar of the Geloni, nor the Getae's bow or Sarmatian's club. These nations would have been destroyed root and branch had not a traitor by a perfidious trick abused the emperor's ear and caused him to withhold his hand; hence the sheathing of the sword, the raising of the siege, and the granting of a treaty to the prisoners.

He was always with the army, seldom in Rome, and then only when the young emperor's anxious love summoned him thither. Scarce had he greeted the gods of his home, scarce seen his wife when, still stained with the blood of his enemies, he hastened back to the battle. He did not stay to catch at least a kiss from Eucherius through his vizor; the anxieties of a general o'ercame a father's yearning and a husband's love. How often has he bivouacked through the Thracian winter and endured beneath the open sky the blasts that slow Boötes sends from mount Rhiphaeus. When others, huddled over the fire, could scarce brook the cold, he would ride his horse across the frozen Danube and climb Athos deep in snow, his helmet on his head, thrusting aside the frozen branches of the ice-laden trees with his far gleaming targe. Now he pitched his tent by the shores of Cimmerian Pontus, now

## CLAUDIAN

nunc dabat hibernum Rhodope nimbosa cubile. 130  
 vos Haemi gelidae valles, quas saepe cruentis  
 stragibus aequavit Stilicho, vos Thracia testor  
 flumina, quae largo mutastis sanguine fluctus ;  
 dicite, Bisaltae vel qui Pangaea iuvenis  
 scinditis, offenso quantae sub vomere putres 135  
 dissiliant glaebis galeae vel qualia rastris  
 ossa peremptorum resonent inmania regum.

Singula complecti cuperem ; sed densior instat  
 gestorum series laudumque sequentibus undis  
 obruimur. genitor caesi post bella tyranni 140  
 iam tibi commissis conscenderat aethera terris.  
 ancipites rerum ruituro culmine lapsus  
 aequali cervice subis : sic Hercule quondam  
 sustentante polum melius librata pependit  
 machina nec dubiis titubavit Signifer astris 145  
 perpetuaque senex subductus mole parumper  
 obstupuit proprii spectator ponderis Atlas.

Nulli barbariae motus ; nil turbida rupto  
 ordine temptavit novitas, tantoque remoto  
 principe mutatas orbis non sensit habenas. 150  
 nil inter geminas acies, ceu libera frenis,  
 ausa manus. certe nec tantis dissona linguis  
 turba nec armorum cultu diversior umquam  
 confluit populus : totam pater undique secum  
 moverat Auroram ; mixtis hic Colchus Hiberis, 155  
 hic mitra velatus Arabs, hic crine decorus  
 Armenius ; hic picta Saces fucataque Medus,

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<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Eugenius.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* of East and West.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

misty Rhodope afforded him a winter's bed. I call you to witness, cold valleys of Haemus, that Stilicho has often filled with bloody slaughter; and you, rivers of Thrace, your waters turned to blood; say, ye Bisaltæ, or you whose oxen plough Pangæus' slopes, how many a rotting helm has not your share shattered neath the soil, how oft have not your mattocks rung against the giant bones of slaughtered kings.

Fain would I embrace each separate one; but thine exploits press on in too close array, and I am overwhelmed by the pursuing flood of glorious deeds. When Theodosius had warred against, and slain, the tyrant <sup>1</sup> he ascended into heaven, leaving the governance of the world to thee. With a strength equal to his thou dost bear up the tottering structure of the empire that threatens each moment to collapse. Thus, when once Hercules upheld the world, the universal frame hung more surely poised, the Standard-bearer did not reel with tottering stars, and old Atlas, relieved for a moment of the eternal load, was confounded as he gazed upon his own burden.

Barbary was quiet, no revolution troubled the empire's peace and though so great a prince was dead the world knew not that the reins had passed into another's hands. No company in the two armies <sup>2</sup> dared aught as though set loose from control. Yet surely never had such diversities of language and arms met together to form one united people. Theodosius had unified the whole East beneath his rule. Here were mingled Colchian and Iberian, mitred Arab, beautifully coifed Armenian, painted Sacian and stained Mede, here the dusky Indian had

## CLAUDIAN

hic gemmata niger tentoria fixerat Indus ;  
 hic Rhodani procera cohors, hic miles alumnus  
 Oceani. ductor Stilicho tot gentibus unus, 160  
 quot vel progrediens vel conspicit occiduus sol.  
 in quo tam vario vocum generumque tumultu  
 tanta quies iurisque metus servator honesti  
 te moderante fuit, nullis ut vinea furtis  
 vel seges erepta fraudaret messe colonum, 165  
 ut nihil aut saevum rabies aut turpe libido  
 suaderet, placidi servirent legibus enses.  
 scilicet in vulgus manant exempla regentum,  
 utque ducum lituos, sic mores castra sequuntur.  
 Denique felices aquilas quocumque moveres, 170  
 arebant tantis epoti milibus amnes.  
 Illyricum peteres : campi montesque latebant.  
 vexillum navale dares : sub puppibus ibat  
 Ionium. nullas<sup>1</sup> succincta Ceraunia nimbis  
 nec iuga Leucatae feriens spumantia fluctu 175  
 deterrebat hiems. tu si glaciale iuberes  
 vestigare fretum, securo milite ducti  
 stagna reluctantes quaterent Saturnia remi ;  
 si deserta Noti, fontem si quaerere Nili,  
 Aethiopum medios penetrassent vela vapores. 180  
 Te memor Eurotas, te rustica Musa Lycaei,  
 te pastorali modulantur Maenala cantu  
 Partheniumque nemus, quod te pugnante resurgens  
 aegra caput mediis erexit Graecia flammis.  
 plurima Parrhasius tunc inter corpora Ladon 185

<sup>1</sup> *A II* nullum ; *other MSS.* nullis, *which Birt prints.* But *deterrebat* needs an object (as *A* and *II* indicate). Possibly, then, nullas

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

pitched his jewel-embroidered tent : here were the tall company of warriors from the Rhone and the warlike children of Ocean. Stilicho and Stilicho alone commanded all the nations looked on by the rising and the setting sun. Amid this company so diverse in blood and speech such peace reigned beneath thy rule, so did fear of justice secure right, that not a single vineyard was robbed, nor did a single field cheat the husbandman of its plundered crop ; rage incited to no violence, passion to no deeds of shame ; the peaceful sword was obedient to law. Of a truth their leaders' pattern passes to the crowd, and the soldier follows not only the standards but also the example of his general.

Whithersoever thou didst lead thy victorious eagles there rivers grew dry, drunk up by so many thousands of men. Didst thou march towards Illyria, plain and mountain were hidden ; didst thou give the signal to thy fleet, the Ionian main was lost beneath thy ships. Cloud-girt Ceraunia, the storms that dash the waves in foam on Leucas' promontory—these could not affright any. Shouldst thou bid them explore some frozen sea, thy untroubled soldiers would shatter the congealed waters with counter-vailing oar ; had they to seek the deserts of the south, to search out the sources of the Nile, their sails would penetrate into Ethiopia's midmost heat.

Thee mindful Eurotas, thee Lycaeus' rustic muse, thee Maenalus celebrates in pastoral song, and therewith the woods of Parthenius, where, thanks to thy victorious arms, weary Greece has raised once more her head from amid the flames. Then did Ladon, river of Arcadia, stay his course amid the countless bodies,

## CLAUDIAN

haesit et Alpheus Geticis angustus acervis  
tardior ad Siculos etiamnunc pergit amores.

Miramur rapidis hostem succumbere bellis,  
cum solo terrore ruant ? non classica Francis  
intulimus : iacuerе tamen. non Marte Suebos 190  
contudimus, quis iura damus. quis credere possit ?  
ante tubam nobis audax Germania servit.  
cedant, Druse, tui, cedant, Traiane, labores :  
vestra manus dubio quidquid discrimine gessit,  
transcurrens egit Stilicho totidemque diebus 195  
edomuit Rhenum, quot vos potuistis in annis ;  
quem ferro, adloquiis ; quem vos cum milite, solus.  
impiger a primo descendens fluminis ortu  
ad bifidos tractus et iuncta paludibus ora  
fulmineum perstrinxit iter ; ducis impetus undas 200  
vincebat celeres, et pax a fonte profecta  
cum Rheni crescebat aquis. ingentia quondam  
nomina, crinigero flaventes vertice reges,  
qui nec principibus donis precibusque vocati  
paruerant, iussi properant segnique verentur 205  
offendisse mora ; transvecti lintribus amnem  
occursant ubicumque velit. nec fama fefellit  
iustitiae : videre pium, videre fidelem.  
quem veniens timuit, rediens Germanus amavit.  
illi terribiles, quibus otia vendere semper 210  
mos erat et foeda requiem mercede pacisci,  
natis obsidibus pacem tam supplice vultu

---

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* Arethusa.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

and Alphaeus, choked with heaps of slaughtered Getae, won his way more slowly to his Sicilian love.<sup>1</sup>

Do we wonder that the foe so swiftly yields in battle when they fall before the sole terror of his name? We did not declare war on the Franks; yet they were overthrown. We did not crush in battle the Suebi on whom we now impose our laws. Who could believe it? Fierce Germany was our slave or ever the trumpets rang out. Where are now thy wars, Drusus, or thine, Trajan? All that your hands wrought after doubtful conflict that Stilicho did as he passed along, and o'ercame the Rhine in as many days as you could do in years; you conquered with the sword, he with a word; you with an army, he single-handed. Descending from the river's source to where it splits in twain and to the marshes that connect its mouths he flashed his lightning way. The speed of the general outstripped the river's swift course, and Peace, starting with him from Rhine's source, grew as grew Rhine's waters. Chieftains whose names were once so well known, flaxen-haired warrior-kings whom neither gifts nor prayers could win over to obedience to Rome's emperors, hasten at his command and fear to offend by dull delay. Crossing the river in boats they meet him wheresoever he will. The fame of his justice did not play them false: they found him merciful, they found him trustworthy. Him whom at his coming the German feared, at his departure he loved. Those dread tribes whose wont it was ever to set their price on peace and let us purchase repose by shameful tribute, offered their children as hostages and begged for peace with such suppliant looks that one would have thought them



## CLAUDIAN

captivoque rogant, quam si post terga revincti  
Tarpeias pressis subeant cervicibus arces.  
omne, quod Oceanum fontesque interiacet Histri, 215  
unius incursu tremuit ; sine caede subactus  
servitio Boreas exarmatique Triones.

Tempore tam parvo tot proelia sanguine nullo  
perficis et luna nuper nascente profectus  
ante redis, quam tota fuit, Rhenumque minacem 220  
cornibus infractis adeo mitescere cogis,  
ut Salius iam rura colat flexosque Sygambrus  
in falcem curvet gladios, geminasque viator  
cum videat ripas, quae sit Romana, requirat ;  
ut iam trans fluvium non indignante Chauco 225  
pascat Belga pecus, mediumque ingressa per Albim  
Gallica Francorum montes armenta pererrent ;  
ut procul Hercyniae per vasta silentia silvae  
venari tuto liceat, lucosque vetusta  
religione truces et robur numinis instar 230  
barbarici nostrae feriant impune bipennes.

Ultro quin etiam devota mente tuentur  
victorique favent. quotiens sociare catervas  
oravit iungique tuis Alamannia signis !  
nec doluit contempta tamen, spretoque recessit 235  
auxilio laudata fides. provincia missos  
expellet citius fasces quam Francia reges,  
quos dederis. acie nec iam pulsare rebelles,  
sed vinclis punire licet ; sub iudice nostro  
regia Romanus disquirit crimina carcer : 240  
380

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

captives, their hands bound behind their backs, and they mounting the Tarpeian rock with the chains of slavery upon their necks. All those lands that lie between Ocean and the Danube trembled at the approach of one man. Boreas was brought into servitude without a blow; the Great Bear was disarmed.

In so short a time didst thou win so many battles without loss of blood, and, setting out with the moon yet new, thou didst return or ever it was full; so didst thou compel the threatening Rhine to learn gentleness with shattered horns, that the Salian now tills his fields, the Sygambrian beats his straight sword into a curved sickle, and the traveller, as he looks at the two banks, asks over which Rome rules. The Belgian, too, pastures his flock across the river and the Chauci heed it not; Gallic herds cross the middle Elbe and wander over the hills of the Franks. Safe it is to hunt amid the vast silence of the distant Hercynian forest, and in the woods that old-established superstition has rendered awful our axes fell the trees the barbarian once worshipped and nought is said.

Nay more, devoted to their conqueror this people offers its arms in his defence. How oft has Germany begged to add her troops to thine and to join her forces with those of Rome! Nor yet was she angered when her offer was rejected, for though her aid was refused her loyalty came off with praise. Provence will sooner drive out the governor thou sendest than will the land of the Franks expel the ruler thou hast given them. Not to rout rebels in the field but to punish them with chains is now the law; under our judge a Roman prison holds inquest

## CLAUDIAN

Marcomeres Sunnoque docet; quorum alter Etruscum  
pertulit exilium; cum se promitteret alter  
exulis ultorem, iacuit mucrone suorum:  
res avidi concire novas odioque furentes  
pacis et ingenio scelerumque cupidine fratres. 245

Post domitas Arctos alio prorupit ab axe  
tempestas et, ne qua tuis intacta tropaeis  
pars foret, Australis sonuit tuba. moverat omnes  
Maurorum Gildo populos, quibus inminet Atlas  
et quos interior nimio plaga sole relegat: 250  
quos vagus umectat Cinyps et proximus hortis  
Hesperidum Triton et Gir notissimus amnis  
Aethiopum, simili mentitus gurgite Nilum;  
venerat et parvis redimitus Nuba sagittis  
et velox Garamas, nec quamvis tristibus Hammon 255  
responsis alacrem potuit Nasamona morari.  
stipantur Numidae campi, stant pulvere Syrtes  
Gaetulae, Poenus iaculis obtexitur aër.  
hi virga moderantur equos; his fulva leones  
velamenta dabant ignotarumque ferarum 260  
exuviae, vastis Meroë quas nutrit harenis;  
serpentum patulos gestant pro casside rictus;  
pendent viperae squamosa pelle pharetrae.  
non sic intremuit Simois, cum montibus Idae  
nigra coloratus produceret agmina Memnon, 265  
non Ganges, cum tela procul vibrantibus Indis  
inmanis medium vectaret belua Porum.

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<sup>1</sup> Marcomeres and Sunno, brother chiefs of the Ripuarian Franks, had (? in connexion with Maximus' revolt) invaded Roman territory near Cologne in 388 and been defeated by Arbogast. Stilicho's successful campaign against them, of which we read here, is to be dated 395 (? March).

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

on the crimes of kings. Marcomeres and Sunno <sup>1</sup> give proof: the one underwent exile in Etruria, the other, proclaiming himself the exile's avenger, fell beneath the swords of his own soldiers. Both were eager to arouse rebellion, both hated peace—true brothers in character and in a common love of crime.

After the conquest of the north arose a fresh storm in another quarter. The trumpets of war rang out in the south that there might be no part of the world untouched by thy victories. Gildo stirred up all the Moorish tribes living beneath mount Atlas and those whom the excessive heat of the sun cuts off from us in the interior of Africa, those too whom Cinyps' wandering stream waters, and Triton, neighbour of the garden of the Hesperides; those who dwell beside the waters of Gir, most famous of the rivers of Ethiopia, that overflows his banks as it had been another Nile. There came at his summons the Nubian with his head-dress of short arrows, the fleet Garamantian, the Nasamonian whose impetuous ardour not even the sinister predictions of Ammon could restrain. The plain of Numidia was overrun, their dust covered the Gaetolian Syrtes; the sky of Carthage was darkened with their arrows. Some, mounted, guide their horses with sticks, others are clad in tawny lion-skins and pelts of the nameless animals that range the vast deserts of Meroë. Severed heads of serpents with gaping jaws serve them for helmets, the bright scaly skin of the viper fashions their quivers. Simois trembled not so violently when swart Memnon led his dusky troops o'er Ida's summit. Not so fearful was Ganges when Porus approached, mounted on his towering elephant and surrounded with his far-shooting Indian soldiery.

## CLAUDIAN

Porus Alexandro, Memnon prostratus Achilli,  
Gildo nempe tibi.

Nec solum fervidus Austrum,  
sed partes etiam Mavors agitabat Eoas. 270

quamvis obstreperet pietas, his ille regendae  
transtulerat nomen Libyae scelerique profano  
fallax legitimam regni praetenderat umbram.  
surgebat geminum varia formidine bellum,  
hoc armis, hoc triste dolis. hoc Africa saevis 275  
cinxerat auxiliis, hoc coniuratus alebat  
insidiis Oriens. illinc edicta meabant  
corruptura duces; hinc frugibus atra negatis  
urgebat trepidamque fames obsederat urbem.  
exitiale palam Libycum; civile pudoris 280  
obtentu tacitum.

Tales utrimque procellae  
cum fremerent lacerumque alternis ictibus anceps  
imperium pulsaret hiems, nil fessa remisit  
officii virtus contraque minantia fata  
pervigil eventusque sibi latura secundos 285  
maior in adversis micuit: velut arbiter alni,  
nubilus Aegaeo quam turbine vexat Orion,  
exiguo clavi flexu declinat aquarum  
verbera, nunc recta, nunc obliquante carina  
callidus, et pelagi caelique obnititur irae. 290

Quid primum, Stilicho, mirer? quod cautus ad omnes  
restiteris fraudes, ut te nec noxia furto  
littera nec pretio manus inflammata lateret?  
quod nihil in tanto circum terrore locutus  
indignum Latio? responsa quod ardua semper 295  
Eois dederis, quae mox effecta probasti—

---

<sup>1</sup> Africa belonged to the West. Gildo, in the words of Zosimus (v. 11. 2), ἀφίστησι τὴν χώραν τῆς Ὀνωρίου βασιλείας καὶ τῇ Ἀρκαδίου προστίθισιν.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

Yet Porus was defeated by Alexander, Memnon by Achilles, and Gildo by thee.

It was not, however, only the South that fierce Mars aroused but also the East. Though loyalty cried out against it Gildo had transferred the nominal rule of Libya to the Eastern empire, cloaking his base treason under the name of legitimate government.<sup>1</sup> Thus with diverse terror a twofold war arose; here were arms, there were wiles. Africa supported the one with her savage tribes, the other the conspiring East nurtured with treachery. From Byzantium came edicts to subvert the loyalty of governors; from Africa that refused her crops black famine pressed and had beleaguered trembling Rome. Libya openly meditated our destruction; over the civic strife shame had laid her veil of silence.

Though such storms raged on either hand, though the twofold tempest buffeted the torn empire on this side and on that, no whit did our consul's courage yield to weariness, but ever watchful against threatening doom and soon to win prosperous issue, shone greater amid dangers: as the ship's pilot, tossed in mid Aegean by the storms of rainy Orion, eludes the waves' buffeting, by the least turn of the tiller, skilfully guiding his vessel now on straight, now on slanting course, and struggles successfully against the conjoint fury of sea and sky.

At what, Stilicho, shall I first marvel? At the providence that resisted all intrigues, whereby no treacherous missive, no bribe-fraught hand escaped thy notice? Or because that amid the general terror thou spakest no word unworthy of Latium? Or because thou didst ever give haughty answer to the East and later made that answer

## CLAUDIAN

securus, quamvis et opes et rura tenerent  
insignesque domos? levis haec iactura; nec  
umquam

publica privatae cesserunt commoda causae.  
dividis ingentes curas teque omnibus unum 300

obicis, inveniens animo quae mente gerenda,  
efficiens patranda manu, dictare paratus  
quae scriptis peragenda forent. quae brachia centum,  
quis Briareus aliis numero crescente lacertis  
tot simul obiectis posset configere rebus: 305

evitare dolos; veteres firmare cohortes,  
explorare novas; duplices disponere classes,  
quae fruges aut bella ferant; aulaeque tumultum  
et Romae lenire famem? quot nube soporis  
inmunes oculi per tot discurrere partes, 310

tot loca sufficerent et tam longinqua tueri?  
Argum fama canit centeno lumine cinctum  
corporis excubiis unam servasse iuveneam!

Unde tot adlatae segetes? quae silva carinas  
texuit? unde rudis tanto tirone iuventus 315

emicuit senioque iterum vernante resumpsit  
Gallia bis fractas Alpino vulnere vires?  
non ego dilectu, Tyrii sed vomere Cadmi  
tam subitas acies concepto dente draconis  
exiluisse reor: Dircaeis qualis in arvis 320  
messis cum proprio mox bellatura colono  
cognatos strinxit gladios, cum semine iacto  
terrigenae galea matrem nascente ferirent

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<sup>1</sup> In the wars against, respectively, Eugenius and the  
Goths.

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

good? They held thy goods, thy lands, thy houses, yet wast thou unmoved. This thou didst account a trifling loss nor ever preferred private to public interest. Thy mighty task thou dost parcel out, yet dost thou face it all alone, debating the problems that must needs be thought out, acting where deeds are called for, ever ready to dictate where aught is to be accomplished by writing. What hundred-handed monster, what Briareus, whose arms ever grew more numerous as they were lopped off, could cope with all these things at once? To avoid the snares of treachery, to strengthen existing regiments and enroll new ones, to equip two fleets, one of corn-ships, one of men-of-war, to quell the tumult of the court and alleviate the hunger of the Roman populace—what eyes, never visited by the veil of sleep, have had the strength to turn their gaze in so many directions and over so many lands or to pierce so far? Fame tells how Argus girt with a hundred eyes could guard but one heifer with his body's watch.

Whence comes this mass of corn? What forest fashioned all those vessels? Whence has sprung this untutored army with all its young recruits? Whence has Gaul, its age once more at the spring, won back the strength that Alpine blows twice shattered<sup>1</sup>? Methinks 'tis no levy but the plough-share of the Phoenician Cadmus that has raised up thus suddenly a host sprung from the sowing of the dragon's teeth; 'tis like the crop that in the fields of Thebes drew the sword of kin in threatened battle with its own sower when, the seed once sown, the earth-born giants clave the earth, their mother's womb, with their springing helms and a harvest of



## CLAUDIAN

armifer et viridi floreret milite sulcus.  
 hoc quoque non parva fas est cum laude relinqui, 325  
 quod non ante fretis exercitus adstitit ultor,  
 ordine quam prisco censeret bella senatus.  
 neglectum Stilicho per tot iam saecula morem  
 rettulit, ut ducibus mandarent proelia patres  
 decretoque togae felix legionibus iret 330  
 tessera. Romuleas leges rediisse fatemur,  
 cum procerum iussis famulantia cernimus arma.  
 Tyrrenum poteras cunctis transmittere signis  
 et ratibus Syrtes, Libyam complere manipulis ;  
 consilio stetit ira minor, ne territus ille 335  
 te duce suspecto Martis graviore paratu  
 aut in harenosos aestus zonamque rubentem  
 tenderet aut solis fugiens transiret in ortus  
 missurusve sibi certae solacia mortis  
 oppida dirueret flammis. res mira relatu : 340  
 ne timeare times et, quem vindicta manebat,  
 desperare vetas. quantum fiducia nobis  
 profuit ! hostilis salvae Carthaginis arces ;  
 inlaesis Tyrri gaudent cultoribus agri,  
 quos potuit vastare fuga. spe captus inani 345  
 nec se subripuit poenae nostrisque pepereit :  
 demens, qui numero tantum, non robore mensus  
 Romanos rapidis ibat ceu protinus omnes  
 calcaturus equis et, quod iactare solebat,  
 solibus effetos mersurus pulvere Gallos. 350

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

young soldiery burgeoned along the armèd furrows. This too must not be passed over without full meed of praise, that the avenging expedition did not embark until the senate had, in accordance with antique usage, declared war. Stilicho re-established this custom, neglected for so many ages, that the Fathers should give generals charge to fight, and by decree of the toga-clad Senate the battle-token pass auspiciously among the legions. We acknowledge that the laws of Romulus have now returned when we see arms obedient to our ministers.

Thou couldst have filled the Tyrrhene sea with all thy standards, the Syrtes with thy fleet and Libya with thy battalions, but wrath was stayed o'ercome by prudent fear lest Gildo, terrified at the thought that thou wast in arms against him and suspecting that thy forces were of overwhelming strength, might retire into the hot desert and the torrid zone, or travel east in flight or, to console him for the certainty of death, might destroy his cities with fire. Marvellous it is to tell: thou wast fearful of being feared and forbade him to despair whom thy vengeance awaited. How greatly was his confidence our gain! Safe are the towers of hostile Carthage, and the Phoenician fields rejoice in their unharmed husbandmen, fields he might have laid waste in his flight. Deluded by a vain hope he spared what was ours without escaping chastisement for himself. Madman, to measure Rome by the numbers instead of the valour of her soldiers! He advanced as though he would ride them all down by means of his fleet cavalry and, as he often boasted, would overwhelm in the dust the Gauls enervated by the sun's heat. But he soon learned that neither wounds

## CLAUDIAN

sed didicit non Aethiopum geminata venenis  
 vulnera, non fusum crebris hastilibus imbrem,  
 non equitum nimbos Latiis obsistere pilis.  
 sternitur ignavus Nasamon, nec spicula supplex  
 iam torquet Garamas ; repetunt deserta fugaces 355  
 Autololes ; pavidus proiecit missile Mazax.  
 cornipedem Maurus nequiquam hortatur anhelum ;  
 praedonem lembo profugum ventisque repulsum  
 suscepit merito fatalis Tabraca portu  
 expertum quod nulla tuis elementa paterent 360  
 hostibus, et laetae passurum iurgia plebis  
 fracturumque reos humili sub iudice vultus.

Nil tribuat Fortuna sibi. sit prospera semper  
 illa quidem ; sed non uni certamina pugnae  
 credidimus totis nec constitit alea castris 365  
 nutatura semel ; si quid licuisset iniquis  
 casibus, instabant aliae post terga biremes ;  
 venturus dux maior erat.

Victoria nulla

clarior aut hominum votis optatior umquam  
 contigit. an quisquam Tigranen armaque Ponti 370  
 vel Pyrrhum Antiochique fugam vel vincla Iugurthae  
 conferat aut Persen debellatumque Philippum ?  
 hi propagandi ruerant pro limite regni ;  
 hic stabat Romana salus. ibi tempora tuto  
 traxerunt dilata moras ; hic vincere tarde 375  
 vinci paene fuit. discrimine Roma supremo  
 inter supplicium populi deforme pendit ;  
 et tantum Libyam fructu maiore recepit  
 quam peperit, quantum graviorem amissa dolorem  
 quam necdum quaesita movent. quis Punica gesta,  
 390

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

made more deadly by the poisoned arrow of Ethiopia nor thick hail of javelins nor clouds of horsemen can withstand Latin spears. The cowardly Nasionian troops are scattered, the Garamantian hurls not his spears but begs for mercy, the swift-footed Autololes fly to the desert, the terror-stricken Mazacian flings away his arms, in vain the Moor urges on his flagging steed. The brigand flees in a small boat and driven back by the winds met with his just fate in the harbour of Tabraca, discovering that no element offered refuge, Stilicho, to thine enemies. There he was destined to undergo the insults of the overjoyed populace and to bow his guilty head before a lowly judgement-seat.

Let not Fortune claim aught for herself. Let her be ever favourable ; but we trusted not the issue to a single fight, nor was the hazard set with all our force to be lost at a single throw. Had hard chance at all prevailed, a second fleet pressed on behind, a greater leader was yet to come.

Never was a more famous victory nor one that was the object of more heart-felt prayers. Will anyone compare with this the defeat of Tigranes, of the king of Pontus, the flight of Pyrrhus or Antiochus, the capture of Jugurtha, the overthrow of Perses or Philip ? Their fall meant but the enlargement of the empire's bounds ; on Gildo's depended the very existence of Rome. In those cases delay entailed no ill ; in this a late-won victory was all but a defeat. On this supreme issue, while leanness racked her people, hung the fate of Rome ; and to win back Libya was a greater gain than its first conquest, even as to lose a possession stirs a heavier pain than never to have had it. Who would

## CLAUDIAN

quis vos, Scipiadae, quis te iam, Regule, nosset, 380  
quis lentum caneret Fabium, si iure perempto  
insultaret atrox famula Carthagine Maurus ?  
haec omnes veterum revocavit adorea lauros  
restituit Stilicho cunctos tibi, Roma, triumphos. 385

## ON STILICHO'S CONSULSHIP, I

now be telling of the Punic wars, of you, ye Scipios,  
or of thee, Regulus ; who would sing of cautious  
Fabius, if, destroying right, the fierce Moor were  
trampling on an enslaved Carthage ? This victory,  
Rome, has revived the laurels of thy heroes of old ;  
Stilicho has restored to thee all thy triumphs.

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